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Mary Osgood

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TEN YEARS

IN

SOUTH AFRICA;

INCLUDING

A PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION

OF THE

WILD SPORTS OF THAT COUNTRY.

BY LIEUT. J. W. D. MOODIE,
21ST FUSILIERS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,
Publisher in Ordinary to His Majesty.
1835.

Afr 8808.35

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LONDON:
PRINTED BY SAMUEL BENTLEY,
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TEN YEARS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

CHAPTER I.

Journey through an Arid Country.—Preparation of Aloes.—An old Colonist.—On procuring Wealth.—Luxury of a Dutch Farmer.—Thrifty Character of the Dutch.—Curious Paintings.—Grazing District.—Scenery of Outeniqua Land.—Dangerous Mountain Passes.—Critical Situation.—Description of the Town of George.—Occupation of the Inhabitants.—Wild Animals.—Journey to the Eastward.—Waggon overturned.—The accident repaired.—Return to George.—Adultery and Murder.—Trial of the Criminal.—Manufacture of Hats.—Policy of Government.

On the second day of our journey we passed through a very arid country for many miles. Part of our road lay across an extensive plain, the soil of which was very rich, but so exceedingly dry that it produced hardly any grass; but it was thickly covered with bushes and crowded with aloe plants. Here we found several wag-

gons, and whole families employed in extracting the juice of the aloe, which yields some profit to the farmers where the plants are abundant.

The manner of procuring this cheap drug is as follows:—Several holes are dug in the ground, over which skins are placed and pressed down in the middle to receive the juice as it runs out. A quantity of the thick fleshy leaves of the aloe are then cut in halves and placed one above another round the margin of the hole, and the heat of the sun soon makes the juice run out into the skin. It is then collected and emptied into a pot, where it is boiled for some time, and hardens into a cake when it is cool.

The price of aloes at Cape Town is now exceedingly low, from the great quantity prepared by the colonists; but it is still worth their while to employ their leisure time in preparing this drug, which would be otherwise quite unproductive.

After passing several farmhouses, we arrived towards evening at the "Vet rivier," or Fat river, where we took up our quarters for the night at the house of a most respectable farmer, of the name of Du Prée; a man, though plain

in his manners, infinitely more civilized and refined than most of the other colonists.

A few hours before this, we passed the residence of his father, an old man upwards of ninety years of age, who had attained this advanced period of life without a day's illness, and seen all his sons settled round him in equally prosperous circumstances with himself. His helpmate was still alive to share his happiness, though nearly as aged as himself.

Our host had a splendid establishment, for this country; having between twenty and thirty people, slaves and Hottentots, to feed daily, besides his own family. His farm-buildings were disposed in a large square, with an extensive dwelling-house on one side, a large stable on the other, and the third and fourth sides occupied by a mill, carpenter's and smith's workshops, waggon-houses, and offices. Jacobus Du Prée seemed to want nothing to complete his happiness; for he was free from that restless love of excitement and ambition of making a show of his wealth and consequence which so often, in our own country, rob of their anticipated enjoyment those who

have been most successful in accumulating riches.

In a country like the Cape there are few opportunities, and still fewer inducements, to acquire great wealth, — for *great* wealth will not be so much coveted where there is no scope for ambition, and where a strong love of equality is so prevalent. Thus prosperity will be more generally diffused through the community; the poor will have greater facility in acquiring an independence; and those who have accumulated riches, by retaining the simplicity of their original habits, will be more capable of enjoying the gifts of fortune.

If we observe the opulent of our own country, we shall find that many of them are rather subjects for pity than for envy. To acquire wealth, they generally sacrifice the feelings and habits which would have enabled them to enjoy it; and when they have at length attained their heart's desire, they find themselves miserably bankrupt in everything on which true happiness depends.

A rich farmer at the Cape is only to be distinguished from his neighbours by the number

of his servants and his cattle, and in the prosperous circumstances of his children. Where plenty is so generally diffused, and where extravagance is despised, there can be little difference in the mode of living. The money which in England would be squandered in empty show and spurious hospitality, the Cape farmer expends in establishing his children in the world without regard to seniority; for, as yet, they are totally unacquainted with what we call the *rights* of primogeniture, and cannot see any merit in one son coming into the world before another.

The only luxury which distinguishes the rich farmer in this part of the colony is the possession of a horse-waggon, or a number of valuable horses. When they amass money by their industry, it is generally carefully hoarded up in a large chest, where it rarely sees the light, except on occasions of great need, and as a last resource.

The Dutch are slow workers, sure gainers, and fast holders; — a character which is well adapted to the circumstances of this colony, where time, at least in its present state, can

hardly be said to be money. Extravagance can never be a virtue; and it is only in a country whose institutions or the character of whose inhabitants have a tendency to produce an injurious accumulation of property in particular families, that this vice can be in any way beneficial to the community.

We were much amused with a series of paintings that ornamented the walls of our host's great hall, which might be about sixty feet in length. These curious pictures, which were executed in oil-colours, represented a Dutch courtship in all its different stages.

As these paintings are no caricatures, and evidently designed to represent the confiding simplicity of honourable love, the hero was represented in the garb of a clergyman. The sacred person of the worthy man was exhibited in a variety of situations indicative of the passion he feels for the fair object of his affections, who does not seem half pleased with his attentions. Our worthy host seemed not a little proud of his pictures.

After leaving the Vet river, we passed through a good grazing district, having, however, the

same arid character as that which we had already seen after quitting the base of the mountains near Groot Vaders Bosch.

As we proceeded to the eastward, the country began to assume a new character, becoming gradually moister and more verdant, until we came to that delightful and well-watered portion of the district of George called Outeniqua Land. I have already observed that the rains are more abundant where the mountains approach the sea-coast; and this circumstance sufficiently accounts for the number of fine rivulets which water the country near the town of George.

The scenery of Outeniqua Land combines more of the beautiful and romantic than perhaps any other part of the colony. The mountains are exceedingly steep and lofty, and are often clothed almost to the very summits with the most beautiful woods, which, in several places, extend to a considerable distance into the plains below.

In the course of our journey, we passed two of the most dangerous ravines I have ever met with in any part of the colony. The first of

these dreadful mountain-passes is called the "Kayman's Gat," or Crocodile's Hole, from a small species of that animal which formerly frequented the mouth of the river which runs at the bottom.

Language can hardly convey an adequate idea of this wild and savage scene to one who has never beheld anything of the same description. Let the reader suppose himself compelled by necessity to convey a waggon across a tremendous gully formed by two high hills, or rather steep mountains, by a narrow and craggy road cut out of the face of the precipitous bank, and hollowed out by the rains into deep ruts, which were sufficient to overturn any English vehicle.

This road was carried along the very brink of the precipice, without the slightest defence to prevent the waggons from being hurled by any false movement of the oxen into the water beneath. So steep was this rugged descent, that it was with the greatest difficulty we could prevent the waggon from sliding down, though the two hind-wheels were chained. At one place, we had to turn round an angle of the

rock; and here, as it happened, a smooth rock extended across the road, sloping to the very edge of the precipice.

Just as we came to this critical point, the hind-wheels, losing their hold on the slippery rock, came within a few inches of the dreadful gulf; and nothing but the presence of mind and courage of our driver saved the waggon and oxen from being dashed to pieces or precipitated into the water.

Leaping from his seat on the waggon-box, the driver got between the hind oxen and the edge of the rock, and walked along with them, directing the ox next him with the handle of his whip until the vehicle was out of danger. Waggons have often been precipitated over the rock at this dangerous angle, carrying most of the oxen along with them.

A person unaccustomed to the mountain-roads and to the waggons of the country would be at a loss to conceive how any wheel-carriage could overcome so many difficulties and apparently inevitable perils.

The other ravine is called the "Trakant'kaw" in the language of the Hottentots, which they

told us signified " the place of carrying honey." The Trakant'kaw is less dangerous than the Kayman's Gat, but it is equally steep on both sides, and the labour of ascending the opposite bank is excessive: our poor oxen nearly sank under the effort. Both these ravines are romantic and beautiful in the extreme.

The town of George is finely situated in a plain at the base of the mountains, which are in this place wooded to the very summits. It consists of a single street, the houses in which are principally constructed of turf plastered over with a mixture of clay and cowdung, and whitewashed. The soil in the neighbourhood of the village is so sandy, that it is not easy to procure bricks fit for building.

This beautiful portion of the country is by no means equal in fertility to most parts of the colony. All kinds of grain are much inferior in quality; and the cattle and sheep are so lean, that there is great difficulty in procuring any fit for slaughter. The butchers and farmers are supplied with fat cattle, principally from the Lange Kloof, a fine grazing country lying behind the mountains near the town.

Such absence of fertility is, however, in some measure, compensated for by the abundance of water, and the facility of cultivation from the lightness of the soil. It is also a fine country for gardening and the cultivation of fruit. The inhabitants of this part of the district of George are generally poor, subsisting principally by felling timber, and sawing it up into beams and planks for house-building. This timber is either sold to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, or carried to Mossel Bay or the Knysna, where it is shipped for Cape Town.

Most of the Dutch farmers in the neighbourhood are obliged to work occasionally in the forest with their people, as their places, from the inferiority of the pasturage, are insufficient to provide them with a comfortable subsistence. The forests also afford employment to a number of Hottentots, who are more industrious and receive higher wages than in the neighbouring districts of Swellendam and Uitenhage.

The Dutch colonists here, from their more laborious habits and the greater difficulty of procuring a subsistence, are stronger in body and

possess more energy of character than the inhabitants of other parts of the colony.

A few elephants are still found in the extensive forest near George; but they are not often seen. There are also a few buffaloes; and wild pigs are numerous in the woods. We saw a few herds of rhee-bocks in different places; and there are several other antelopes, which are common to most parts of the colony.

After spending a few days at the town of George, we proceeded about half a day's journey in our waggon to the eastward, where my brother wished to purchase a farm near the forest, on which he proposed to employ several of his people, who had not yet paid him, in sawing timber.

He soon found a place to his taste. It was situated on an elevated plain along the margin of the woods at the base of the mountains. It abounded in water; but the soil was extremely poor, and the pasture, though verdant, coarse and sour. Here we loaded our waggon with plank, and were on our way back to George, when, in descending a steep ravine, the wheels got into a deep rut, and it was overturned.

The tent which was necessary to shelter us on our journey from the sun and rain, was crushed to pieces, and several parts of the waggon itself were broken; so that we were compelled to remain the whole night in our present uncomfortable situation. The worst of it was, that, expecting to be in George betimes, we had brought no provisions along with us.

To make the best of our mishap, however, we despatched one of our Hottentots to the town of George for a carpenter to bind up the wounds of our luckless vehicle, to enable us to pursue our journey on the morrow. This done, we made a fire and sat down round it with excellent appetites, but with the most rueful countenances imaginable.

The Hottentots sighed and lighted their pipes, and my brother grumbled and swore. The countenances of the unwilling fasters had such an irresistibly ludicrous expression, that I could not help laughing; which augmented my brother's displeasure tenfold. At last, to the relief of all parties, we fell asleep, and forgot our misfortune and our hunger.

Early next morning, our Hottentot returned

with a carpenter and some provisions. The carpenter, after expressing a sort of smiling concern at our accident, which afforded him a job, proceeded without delay to patch up our waggon *pro tempore*, to enable us to pursue our journey. We got to George without any other accident, where we remained for a few days at the house of a friend, while my brother was completing the purchase of the place we had gone to see.

Here we had another instance of the laxity of morals and savage unfeeling conduct which I have already noticed as characteristic of the Dutch colonists *in general*. A near relation of the person from whom my brother purchased the farm, whose name was Zaayman, had for a long time been engaged in an intrigue with the wife of his neighbour Barnard.

Not content with the injury she had already done to her husband, Mrs. Barnard instigated her paramour to murder him. Zaayman wrote the unfortunate man a letter, asking him to meet him at a particular place, at a considerable distance from any house. He then took his gun and concealed himself near the road

where Barnard must pass, and, taking a deliberate aim, shot him through the body, when, springing from his concealment, he finished his murderous work with the butt-end of his gun.

"This last proceeding," some of the Dutch coolly observed, "was very unreasonable, as Barnard had constantly made a practice of going out of the way whenever Zaayman thought proper to visit his wife."

Zaayman was at this time at Cape Town to stand his trial for the murder; and, it will hardly be credited, the wicked woman who instigated him to commit the deed was visiting her friends in George, while we were there, as if nothing had happened, although the whole circumstances of the case were perfectly known to everybody in the place.

The result of this trial was somewhat singular. Zaayman was found guilty, and condemned to death by the Dutch court of justice, which was then in existence; but he was pardoned by the acting governor, from his feeling some doubts as to the sufficiency of the evidence.

I very well recollect hearing a Dutch farmer, in the district of Swellendam, counting on his fingers the different sums of money which Zaayman's father had given as bribes to different members of the court to save his son's life; and he thought it very shameful that he was not acquitted by the court after so much money had been sacrificed for him.

As we were returning to Groot Vaders Bosch, we called at the house of a Dutch farmer, who, in addition to his other avocations, employed several slaves in the manufacture of coarse white woollen hats, which are generally worn by the Dutch throughout the colony. These hats are almost the only articles of dress manufactured in the colony; but there can be no doubt that some other coarse and strong articles might also be produced from the inferior wools of the native sheep, which would find a ready sale among the savage tribes of the interior, who would give ivory and skins in exchange for them.

The first manufactures deserving of encouragement in this colony should be such as would consume its coarse and inferior mate-

rials, which have little or no value in the colony or in other countries, and thus afford employment to a great number of the white inhabitants who have no profitable occupation for themselves or slaves through a considerable part of the year.

The best policy Government can pursue in these cases is to remove obstructions, and to leave the capital and industry of the inhabitants to take their natural course; for individuals are always the best judges of what may be most conducive to their interest.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival at the Cape of one of the Author's Brothers.—British Settlers in the Colony.—Sir Rufane S. Donkin, Acting-governor.—Reduction of the Royal African Corps—Grants to the Officers.—Capabilities of the Country.—Lands granted to the Author and his Brothers.—Formation of the Settlement of Fredericksburg.—Journey to George.—Dutch Hospitality.—Jacobus Meyer.—System of the Dutch Farmers.—Thrift of the Women.—Toilsome Ascent of Attaquas Kloof.—Grand Conflagration.—Inquisitive Spirit of the Cape Boors exemplified.

In a few months after our return from our excursion, we were joined by a second brother of ours, a lieutenant in the navy, who touched at the Cape on his way to India, where he hoped to find employment in the merchant-service; but, meeting at Cape Town with some naval friends who had been disappointed in the same object, he determined on remaining in South Africa.

This was the year (1820) in which the British

settlers arrived in the colony; and, as my brothers were anxious to witness the proceedings of our countrymen, and to judge of the capabilities of the district selected for their location, they set out in a bullock-waggon for the frontier, accompanied by an English merchant who had recently arrived in the country.

The acting-governor, Sir Rufane S. Donkin, was at that time at Grahamstown, where he formed the plan of establishing a kind of semi-military settlement in a tract of country which had recently been ceded by the Kaffres to the colony, lying between the Great Fish and Kieskamma rivers.

The Royal African Corps was then under orders for reduction, and the men were to be drafted into other regiments. This corps was entirely composed of deserters and other military criminals, who had been allowed the option of entering this transported regiment to avoid the more severe punishment awarded by the sentence of a court-martial; and a great part of the soldiers were glad to avail themselves of his Excellency's offer of establishing them as settlers in the ceded territory.

Sir Rufane Donkin proposed granting to each of the officers of the regiment who would become a settler five hundred acres of ground, on condition of his employing a certain number of the privates as servants for three years; after which period, if they had conducted themselves to the satisfaction of their masters, they should get their discharge from the service, and be entitled to a free grant of a hundred acres each within the limits of the new settlement.

Enticing as these offers were to the privates, who saw no other chance of getting their freedom, Sir Rufane had great difficulty in bringing the officers to relish his plan. They complained, that while the sons of the Dutch farmers obtained grants of from four thousand to six thousand acres, without trouble, in long-settled tracts, they, who would be constantly exposed to the attacks and depredations of the Kaffres, should only be allowed five hundred. And, what pleased them still less, Sir Rufane proposed appointing Captain ——, who was very unpopular, to be their civil magistrate.

In this state of the matter, my brothers came

to see the country intended for the new colony; and the officers invited the elder one to become their magistrate, and to treat with the acting-governor about the terms of settlement. Sir Rufane willingly assented to this arrangement; and my brother succeeded in persuading him to increase the extent of the officers' grants to four thousand acres each.

It was evident that his Excellency had formed an erroneous estimate of the capabilities of the country in question for supporting a dense population, which would no doubt be exceedingly desirable as a protection to the rest of the colony against the frequent incursions of the Kaffres.

The adjoining parts of Kaffreland being thickly inhabited when compared with any part of the colony, people were naturally led into the belief that a similar country was capable of affording support to an equally dense population of civilized men. But it should be remembered, that as Europeans have more wants than barbarians, they require also greater means to supply them.

It is true, indeed, that civilization increases the productiveness of a country; but, when a

population exclusively agricultural is suddenly created in a new and unoccupied territory, it is essential to their well-being that they should possess some means of disposing of the surplus produce which their art and industry have created, to purchase the clothing and other articles of necessity or luxury which habit has rendered necessary to their comfort.

The Kaffre who habits himself in the skins of his cattle, and who from custom is contented with the bare necessaries of life, does not require these facilities in an equal degree, and can therefore feel comfortable under circumstances of privation which would be intolerable to civilized men.

The country in question was too far removed from any market for its agricultural produce; and the roads, being intersected by deep and rocky ravines, were hardly passable with loaded waggons. It is therefore obvious, on the slightest reflection, that the ceded territory could be available for the purposes of colonization merely as a grazing country; and, unless the new settlers could resign their acquired habits, and relapse into barbarism, they would, under

these circumstances, be unable to find an adequate subsistence, without possessing a greater extent of pasturage than would be sufficient for the limited wants of the Kaffres, or any other barbarous and pastoral people.

Having settled the preliminary matters, the officers of the Royal African Corps entered into a regular agreement with the acting-governor in the month of June 1821, containing many stipulations on both sides which were considered necessary to the success of the new settlement according to their respective views.

My two brothers and myself were admitted to hold lands on similar terms with the other officers, which enabled us to employ a greater number of the privates as servants; this of course added strength and security to the settlement. Sir Rufane, for further protection to us and the English settlers behind us in the district of Albany, established a military post close to the village which we founded, and which his Excellency named Fredericksburg, after his Royal Highness the Duke of York. Further to facilitate our first exertions, the military servants whom we employed were allowed to

draw rations for nine months from the date of our being located at the village.

As soon as all the arrangements had been concluded for the formation of the settlement of Fredericksburg, my brothers wrote to acquaint me with what had been done; and, delighted with the prospect of establishing myself in a situation of so much importance to ourselves, and to the security of our countrymen, who looked up to us as their protectors, I lost no time in preparing to join them at the infant colony.

I immediately hired two Hottentots, and set out on my journey in a waggon of my brother's, which, besides a load of thirty bushels of wheat for our immediate use, carried all my luggage and the cooking utensils necessary on the road. I had a small stock of thirty cows and calves, which I had purchased in the district of Swellendam: these I left behind to accompany my brother's cattle, when he could remove his property to the frontier. I had also a pair of riding-horses, which I fastened behind the waggon.

The first part of my journey lay in the rout

to George, which I have already described. I stayed a night with our friend Jacobus Du Prée, who treated me with his usual kindness and hospitality. I was much amused here with an instance of that attention to trifling gains for which the Cape-Dutch are noted.

As Mynheer Du Prée had a vineyard, my Hottentots petitioned with great earnestness that I would treat them to a bottle of wine. Being afraid of giving offence to my kind host by asking him to sell me so small a quantity, I sent one of them with the money to make his purchase in the best manner he could. To my astonishment, our host asked me in a rather displeased tone of voice why I had not told him myself, as he did not like to sell wine to a Hottentot without the master's knowledge. I said that I felt a delicacy in asking a man in his circumstances to sell me so trifling an article; at which he laughed heartily, telling me he would never quarrel with anybody for buying his goods.

Many people in England would consider this an act of meanness; but, when we take our host's liberality to his guests into account, we can

only attribute it to a difference in national manners: for fair gain can never be mean or dishonourable in its nature, if not connected with pride and ostentation.

In travelling from Swellendam to the frontier districts of the colony, it is necessary to cross the grand chain of mountains which runs for several hundred miles parallel to the sea-coast, in order to avoid the almost impassable roads and forests beyond George. The only two passes in the district of Swellendam are the Platt Kloof and Attaquas Kloof. We chose the last-mentioned as the least fatiguing to our oxen.

The evening after leaving the Vet river, we arrived at the residence of Jacobus Meyer, a respectable farmer, who lived at the entrance of this wild mountain-pass. There was nothing remarkable in the country over which we passed on our way to this place. Mr. Meyer's house, which was large and comfortable compared to those of many other farmers, was beautifully situated in a verdant meadow at the base of the mountains.

I sat down to supper with the landlord, his wife, and sixteen persons, consisting of sons and

daughters, son's wives and daughter's husbands, all grown men and women. Mr. Meyer complained to me of the number of mouths he had to feed daily; and told me that his family formerly consisted of sixteen children by one wife, but that eight of the number were dead.

All the lands in this part of the country being already occupied, two or three of his married sons were preparing to start for the frontier to look out for establishments for themselves. It is usual with the Dutch farmers in this part of the colony to bring up some of their sons as smiths or carpenters, the two trades most wanted in an infant colony. But, as the working-class consist principally of slaves and Hottentots, pride generally hinders them from following these trades as a distinct occupation.

The farmers are the nobility in this colony; and, as long as their children can find a piece of ground to cultivate on their father's estate, they cannot bear the idea of quitting their imaginary rank and losing caste. This is a serious evil, resulting from the possession of slaves, and which it will take many years to remove. Thus nearly all the young Dutchmen are at the same time

farmers and artisans, each occupation clashing with the other. They make excellent strong waggons, having a perfect knowledge of the best materials the woods afford; but they are exceedingly slow workers, as they take special care not to fatigue or overheat themselves, and never allow labour to stand in the way of any of their amusements.

When the young men have at length completed a waggon or two, they load them with wine, brandy, vinegar, and fresh and dried fruits, and set out on a journey of some hundred miles towards the more recent settlements on the frontier and interior of the colony, where they retail the different articles to the farmers for money or cattle, and afterwards sell their waggons and return home on horseback. After two or three of these journeys, they generally fix upon some vacant tract of land in the interior, and on obtaining a grant of it from Government, remove with their families and cattle to take possession of it.

I slept in my waggon, and proposed starting early on the ensuing day, to allow my oxen sufficient time to overcome the difficulties of the

Kloof, which were of no ordinary description. In the morning, however, I found that one of my yokes was cracked in the middle, and that two of my oxen suffered from a swelling in the feet, which I had not before perceived. I was therefore obliged to exchange them for two others of Mr. Meyer's; and he also sold me another yoke for ten rix dollars.

It is the common custom of the Dutch to take every advantage of travellers, and particularly of the English, when they get them in their power; but Mr. Meyer was an exception to the general rule, in this instance, and dealt with me on fair terms.

Mrs. Meyer took great umbrage at her husband's honesty to a "mere stranger and an Englishman," and complained bitterly of it to one of her sons in my hearing, not suspecting, from my apparent ignorance of the language, that I perfectly understood her.

"There's your father, as usual, selling his goods for nothing to the Englishman," said this amiable dame, "when he knows well that he might get his own price from him."

I have invariably found the Dutch women at

the Cape much more avaricious and more prejudiced against strangers than the men. This appears to me to be quite the opposite of the character of English females, who are usually generous and fond of strangers to a fault.

The pass called Attaquas Kloof is one of the wildest and most romantic in the colony. We first ascended a very steep and rocky road, which carried us over the top of a high grassy hill, from whence we had a fine view of the windings of the rude waggon-track,—for road it could hardly be called. It sometimes seemed to ascend the perpendicular face of a mountain; then it would take a sudden turn and wind round it, when the intervening heights would conceal it from the view. Again, it would appear at a great distance climbing a long ridge among rocks and brushwood, or skirting the base of the vast mountains which rose in majestic grandeur on either side of the deep glen, through which a little rivulet was seeking its way among the fragments of rock and stones which had fallen from the heights above.

I shall not attempt to describe the toil we

experienced in this day's journey, before we emerged on the opposite side of the mountains. What materially added to the grandeur of the scene was, that some one had set fire to the dry grass and bushes. The conflagration spread rapidly up the steep sides of the ravine in long lines of flame to the summit of the mountains, leaving all black and dreary behind it. At one place, we were obliged to drive the waggon through the burning grass, and were sometimes almost stifled with clouds of smoke.

On the approach of night, we had overcome the principal difficulties of our dangerous and toilsome route, when I could contemplate with unmixed pleasure the sublimity of the scene, now increased tenfold by the surrounding darkness lending additional brilliancy to the flames, which still raged far and wide with unabated fury among the crackling brushwood, scaring the affrighted antelopes from their quiet haunts.

We rested for the night at the house of a farmer, who had built a house and planted a vineyard and fruit-trees in a little valley at the opposite side of the Kloof, where he had led out a little stream of water to irrigate the soil,

which was here more parched and arid than in the country I had left behind me.

The owner of this farm was a very different kind of man from my last entertainer. He was disposed to be kind and civil; but his manner was so uncouth and rough, that it nearly neutralized the effect of his intentions. According to the usual custom of the Cape boors, he began to put to me a string of questions, which I endeavoured to parry by asking as many in return.

"The first query was, "Where do you live?" Then, putting the cart before the horse, he asked me how many children I had. Being a single man, I told him, of course, that I had none.

"Are you not married yet, then?"—"No: there is time enough for that."

"Time enough for that! What! do you live all alone, like an old elephant-bull in the bush?"

I now took advantage of the short pause occasioned by my persecutor's surprise that a man come to years of discretion should be without a wife, to turn the battery on my interrogator, and commenced asking him a number of equally impertinent questions to nearly

the same effect, which he answered with great composure and satisfaction.

"How old are you?" was the first question I put to him.—"Twice as old as you, and more: —I am now forty-five."

"How many children have you?"—"More than you will ever have: I have had twelve children."

"What is the matter with your head?" I now asked him, perceiving that it was wrapped up in a piece of dirty flannel pinned under the chin.—"Ach! mynheer, I am sorely troubled with the zinkins," (a kind of rheumatism common in the colony,) answered my *now* defendant: "perhaps you may know of something that will cure me? I have worn this steel ring for the last six months to cure it; but I cannot find out which finger I should put it on; —I have tried all the fingers of my right hand, but it will not do."

"Why don't you apply to a doctor?" I asked him.—"Ach! mynheer, why should I apply to an English doctor? he would only make me pay plenty of money and do me no good. There was a knowing Malay slave here some

time ago who did me some good with a charm he gave me, which I still wear on the top of my head." He then carefully removed the flannel from his head, and showed me a piece of paper inscribed with strange characters, probably a sentence from the Koran.

"Did he give you nothing else at the same time?" I inquired.—"Yes, he gave me this powder to rub on my jaws and the inside of my mouth; but it was the *charm* that did me good."

"I strongly suspect, my good friend, that if anything did you good, it must have been the powder."—"Nay, mynheer, that could not be; for an English doctor or anybody might have given me a powder, but it would not have helped me. Nay, mynheer, it was the charm."

"Then it must have been the charm," I answered: and so this interesting subject was dropped.

CHAPTER III.

The Lange Kloof, or Long Valley—Its Fertility.—Appearance of the Country.—Van Staden's River.—Arid Lands.—Excessive Heat.—Situation of the Village of Uitenhage.—The Sunday River.—Elephants and Buffaloes—Anecdote of the former.—Singular Excavations.—Anecdote of the Buffalo.—Troops of Spring-bocks.—Ant-hills.—Hottentot Mode of cooking Game.—Use of the Plant called Calamus Aromaticus.—View of Grahamstown.—Some Account of the Place—Its Population.—Houses built by the Officers.—Remarks on the Situation of the Town.

I HAD now entered the Lange Kloof, or Long Valley, as it is called, which extends for more than a hundred miles between two parallel ranges of mountains, or rather mountains on one side and high grassy hills on the other. The back of that extensive chain of lofty mountains which lies behind and to the northward of Outeniqua Land and the village of George, forms the southern boundary of the Lange

Kloof; but, from the great elevation of the valley, the mountains lose much of their height and grandeur, and are besides nearly destitute of wood on the northern side.

The Lange Kloof is celebrated for its fertility, from the number of springs found everywhere to irrigate the otherwise dry soil. In itself, however, the soil does not appear to be particularly rich, being a greyish clay lying on a substratum of clay-slate, and so shallow that the orange and other fruit-trees never attain the height and luxuriance of the trees in other parts of the colony.

I was much disappointed in the appearance of this tract of country, which, notwithstanding the number of farmhouses and well-watered gardens, was rather bleak and forbidding, from the total absence of wood, and the uniformity in the shapes of the mountains. Throughout its whole extent the valley is so similar in its general character, that it hardly merits a particular description. Most of the farmers along the road were men of very considerable property, consisting of slaves and cattle; and their houses and outbuildings were large and extensive.

The eastern extremity of the Lange Kloof opens into the valley of the Kromme river; and here the scenery again becomes interesting and romantic. We were now descending rapidly with the course of the river, which winds its way between two lofty chains of mountains. The road was in many places conducted along the steep face of the northern range, from whence we enjoyed many delightfully picturesque views of the serpentine course of the stream beneath us, and of the farmhouses and orchards which here and there ornamented its banks. The pasturage along the banks of the Kromme river is everywhere of that coarse description which is distinguished by the term "sour" by the colonists.

As we approached the Chamtoos river, the country became more level, and was everywhere thickly clothed with low trees or bushes ten or twelve feet high, of a sombre green colour; but the pasturage, wherever an opening occurred, was tender and *sweet*, which showed that the soil was naturally fruitful. This description of country, which was new to me, had an unpleasing and gloomy aspect, from the

unbroken uniformity in the height and hue of the trees; so that at a distance it seemed to be covered with heath or young fir plantations.

We travelled several hours through this inhospitable tract, without seeing a house or any opening to relieve the wearied eye, excepting where the bush had been cleared away in making the road. At length, when we came within a few miles of Van Staden's River, we emerged from the savage waste. The country suddenly assumed a more smiling appearance, and the hills and valleys were covered with rich pasturage of a more verdant green than any I had yet met with in the colony.

This was the season for burning the grass, which becomes too rank and coarse for the cattle when allowed to grow too long. Having occasion to purchase a sheep, I applied to a farmer whose habitation stood near the gorge of a deep and woody valley environed on all sides by lofty and inaccessible rocks. Shrugging his shoulders, with the tears in his eyes, the farmer told me that in burning his grass some time ago, supposing that his sheep were elsewhere, they had all been scorched to death

in the deep ravine, from which they could not make their escape.

After crossing the river, we ascended the hills on the opposite side, and passed through a beautiful little forest of fine timber-trees, the branches of which were richly festooned with the bearded lichen, which gave them a hoary and venerable appearance. The high grounds above the river were covered with verdant pasturage; and this beautiful description of country, interspersed with wood and bush, extended as far as the eye could reach towards the sea-coast, which we could perceive in the distance.

My Hottentots told me that the woods swarmed with elephants and buffaloes. We soon, however, re-entered a tract of country similar to that which I have already described on the banks of the Chamtoos river, covered thickly with the same kind of dwarf-trees and brushwood. This is an invariable characteristic of the rivers in this part of the colony.

It is a curious circumstance, that the most arid land is generally found in the extensive plains on either side of the larger rivers. Small as these rivers, as they are called, generally are,

the deep and wide valleys through which they run constitute the most striking features of the landscape.

We were sometimes several hours in descending from the heights which environ these level valleys; and yet, when we at last arrived on the banks of the river, as we expected it would prove, we only found a trifling rivulet scarcely strong enough to turn a mill. The excessive heat of the sun, in such situations, burns up the grass, and leaves only sufficient moisture to nourish the hardy stunted brushwood, whose roots can penetrate the indurated clay, where more delicate plants would soon perish if not constantly supplied with rain.

In these situations, after plentiful showers, the ground, wherever an open space occurs between the bushes, is covered over with sweet and tender grass of the softest green; but the succeeding droughts, aided by the intense heat of the sun, leave all bare and dreary again, when the cattle and sheep are forced to seek a subsistence by browsing on the leaves of the shrubs.

Uitenhage, the district town which we were

now approaching, is situated in a country of this description, along the banks of the Zwartkops river, one of the largest streams in this part of the colony. To supply this village with water, a strong spring, taking its rise in the high mountains behind it, has been conducted along the main street from a distance of nine miles in a deep ditch, from which every one of the cross streets is furnished with an ample allowance of the fertilizing element; and it is delightful to perceive its magic effect on a soil naturally productive.

The ground on which Uitenhage stands has been almost entirely cleared from the low bushes and brushwood; and the lively verdure of the gardens and orange-trees is finely contrasted with the dreary and sombre hue of the surrounding country, and the magnificent range of mountains which forms the background of the picture.

The soil near Uitenhage is so rich that it has been known to yield from eighty to ninety returns of wheat; but, from the exhausting effect of artificial irrigation, it requires to be constantly manured.

After quitting this beautiful and well-watered village, we travelled for many miles over gentle undulations of ground, everywhere thickly covered with bushes, among which great numbers of buffaloes are shot by the Dutch and Hottentots; and we met a hunting-party carrying the flesh of one of these animals cut in long strips. We passed the 'Kuga river, still buried in this almost interminable forest; ascended a steep ridge on the opposite side, and crossed an extensive elevated plain clear of bushes and covered with coarse long grass.

The valleys on the banks of the rivers are generally composed of deep clay, intermixed with rounded stones and gravel; which circumstance, together with the equality of their surface, shows that they have formerly been covered by the sea, or that the rivers have, at some former period, frequently overflowed their banks. In taking a general view of this country we are irresistibly led to conclude, from its structure, that the sea has receded from the land, or that the latter has been raised by some power above its former level at no very remote period. Several salt lakes are found at the height of two or

even three hundred feet above the level of the sea; and most of the springs near the beds of the streams are more or less brackish.

From the flatness and equality in the height of the high ridges between the rivers, it would appear that the general face of the country has at one time been an elevated plain, and that the deep and broad valleys and ravines which now intersect it have been produced by much larger rivers than we find at the present day.

The elevated plain, or rather flat-topped hill, over which we were now travelling, like most of the high grounds in this part of the colony, was covered with coarse soft limestone, which rested on a deep stratum of sandstone; and the soil was a sandy clay and generally very shallow, so that here and there the rocks appeared above the surface. Wherever limestone abounds near the surface of the ground, we always found that the grass grew more luxuriantly, and that it preserved its verdure longer than in other situations during the droughts to which the whole colony is subject. In the middle of this ridge, which cannot be less than three hundred feet above the sea, great quan-

tities of oyster-shells are dug out to burn into lime.

The next stream we came to was the Sunday river. We were a whole day in descending and ascending its opposite banks. The country was very similar to what I have already described along the Zwart Kops and Kuga rivers; bleak, bushy, and arid.

There are great numbers of elephants and buffaloes in the bushes along the course of the Sunday river. They are often very dangerous and troublesome to the farmers in this quarter. During the day they generally retire to the deep ravines in the sides of the valley; but in the night-time they are all in motion, wandering over the whole country, and frequently running unawares upon the waggons on the great road. They are generally scared away by shouting, and cracking the long whip used by the drivers.

In travelling this road some years afterwards, I was informed by a farmer that an elephant the previous night had caught a shackled horse belonging to him, and, after running his tusks through the animal's body, threw him with his

trunk into the branches of a large thorn-tree. On another occasion, one of these dangerous animals attacked a sledge loaded with wheat, and, after scaring away the people who accompanied it, returned and broke it to pieces, besides killing two of the oxen on the spot. They are now, however, less numerous in this part of the country, and the inhabitants can travel during the night with less danger.

On the eastern bank of the river we had to climb a very high and steep hill, and emerged from the bushes on the end of a long sharp grassy ridge, along which we travelled for some miles, with a deep bushy ravine on either hand. The appearance of the country was totally altered. It consisted of high grassy hills of the most irregular forms, divided by deep valleys sprinkled with clumps of bush and tall mimosa thorns in all directions.

I observed several round natural basins containing rain-water, and resembling artificial ponds. These singular excavations were generally on the top of sharp ridges, and appeared to be formed by the earth sinking in beneath them. The Dutch, who are by no means un-

observant of such particulars, assign another cause for the formation of these basins. Buffaloes are particularly fond of tearing up the ground with their horns, and the hollows thus formed become receptacles for rain-water, which is again dried up by the heat of the sun, and the loosened particles of earth and sand are blown away by the winds. The hollows thus enlarged, when they are again filled with water, become the favourite resort of elephants, wild pigs, and other animals of similar habits; and thus, by a repetition of the process, it is not difficult to conceive that in time they may attain their present dimensions.

However this may be, the farmers are often glad to avail themselves of these periodical pools to water their cattle, for springs are very scarce in this part of the country. The more the pools are frequented, the better they retain the water, as the constant trampling of the cattle gives consistency to the soil and prevents filtration. By means of these occasional supplies of rain-water, the farmers who have other places possessing constant springs, are enabled to keep a greater number of cattle, by removing

to them for a month or two when their grass becomes scanty.

After winding along a succession of sharp irregular ridges well covered with grass, we entered a long valley with low hills on either side, called Quaggas Flakte. Here we saw great numbers of spring-bocks in troops of fifty or a hundred together. These antelopes are much tamer than the other species, and many of the farmers in this neighbourhood subsist in a great measure on their flesh, which is well-flavoured, though rather dry.

There are great numbers of large ant-hills along the sloping sides of the valley, which afford the hunters an opportunity to get within shot of their game. Whenever we rested our oxen in the course of our journey, I despatched one of my Hottentots with his gun in search of game, while I proceeded in another direction for the same purpose. By this means, we had generally an antelope of some kind to vary our diet.

The Hottentots have a curious mode of cooking this kind of game, which I found exceedingly palatable. After stewing the meat in a

very small quantity of water, they took it out of the pot and stamped it between two stones until it was reduced to the consistence of pap, when they mixed it up with a considerable quantity of sheep's fat, and then stewed it for a short time longer. This is an excellent way of preparing dry flesh of any kind.

On one occasion, after I had taken out my share of this mess, the Hottentots added a large quantity of fat to it to please their own palates; and one of them ate so heartily of the greasy mixture, that he became seriously unwell, but recovered by chewing some dry roots of the sweet-scented flag, or *Calamus aromaticus*. This plant is very much used by the Dutch for stomach complaints, and they generally cultivate some of it in wet places in their gardens.

The character of the country along the Bosjesman's river, which we next crossed, is so similar to that of the other rivers I had lately passed, that it requires no description. Notwithstanding its long course, it frequently stands in brackish pools during dry seasons.

All these rivers are subject to sudden rises,

in consequence of heavy rains in the interior, when they sometimes overflow their banks, covering the level plains in the vicinity. The country to the eastward of the Bosjesman's river gradually assumes a more mountainous character, and the soil becomes poorer and more sandy. The limestone disappears entirely, and the sandstone shows itself from time to time through its thin and meagre covering. To the left of the road, the soil deepens, but becomes more arid.

In descending a hill, we came suddenly in view of Grahamstown, which is situated in a kind of basin, with high rocky and barren hills on one side, and rounded conical hills on the other, divided by long sloping valleys sprinkled with mimosas and clumps of low brushwood. The grass was verdant on all sides; but the number of broad waggon-roads ascending the heights in all directions had a most unsightly appearance.

The town is built on an eminence in the centre of the valley, and, from the inequality of the ground, has less of that formal regularity in its appearance which we observe in the

other places throughout the colony. The great variety in the plans and sizes of the habitations shows at first sight that it is inhabited by a population whose pursuits and circumstances differ widely from each other.

I took up my quarters for a day or two with an old acquaintance, an officer of the Cape regiment, who had formerly served in the same regiment with myself some years before. Grahamstown, being the head-quarters of the troops on the frontier, the seat of magistracy, and the focus of the new British settlement in the district of Albany, had a greater appearance of life and activity than any of the towns I had formerly visited.

At the period of which I am now speaking, it was quite in its infancy; but, in consequence of its advantageous position for commerce with the Kaffres and other barbarous tribes beyond the colony, as well as with the farmers of the interior, it has now become the second town in point of general importance in South Africa. The mimosa-tree is still preserved, in the middle of the principal street, under which Colonel Graham lay when he

chose the site of the future town which now bears his name. At first, it only consisted of a few miserable wattled huts, erected by the officers and soldiers for a temporary shelter, and a house of a better description where the magistrate resided.

The market for produce and European goods afforded by the presence of the troops soon attracted a considerable population, which was much increased by the partial failure of the British settlers in Albany, many of whom being tradesmen and artisans, and totally unfitted by their habits for becoming agriculturists, naturally resorted to Grahamstown, where they soon repaired their losses by following their original occupations.

As soon as these people had acquired sufficient means by their labour, they built themselves small brick or stone houses; and, in a short time, found themselves in very comfortable and improving circumstances. Several habitations were also erected by officers of the Cape regiment, who were allowed to employ the Hottentot soldiers as labourers, on low wages; and many of them were thus enabled

to speculate on the growing prosperity of the town with considerable profit to themselves, as they had no difficulty in finding tenants.

Lieutenant A——, the officer at whose cottage I lived during my first visit to Grahamstown, had several of his men employed in this manner. In the sequel of my narrative, I shall take an opportunity of describing the state of society in this place more at large; for any account of it at the period of my first visit would convey a very imperfect idea of its present condition, when its extent, population, and importance are so much increased, in consequence of the more enlightened policy of the government, and the opening of the trade with the Kaffres and other tribes beyond the boundary of the colony.

Colonel Graham's judgment in selecting the present site for the town has often been called in question with some appearance of reason. The principal objection against it is the difficulty of communication with the most fertile portion of the district, which lies beyond a steep range of rocky mountains on the south side of the town, and towards the sea-coast.

The roads across these mountains are so bad, that they form serious obstructions to the farmers in bringing their produce to the only market in this part of the colony. But Colonel Graham appears to have been actuated by sounder and more enlarged views in the choice he made. The British settlers had not then arrived in the colony; and even if they had, I very much doubt whether he would have altered his opinion as to the eligibility of the spot he had selected. His first object must have been to adopt such a situation for the head-quarters of the troops as commanded the most ready communication with the different outposts stationed along the banks of the Great Fish river for the protection of the colonists in general.

No spot, commanding a sufficient supply of water for the use of the inhabitants, could have been chosen better situated for this purpose than Grahamstown, as it is nearly at an equal distance from the different military posts, to which reinforcements can readily be sent on any emergency. There are only some particular points where the Fish river can be forded, and through which the Kaffres must

drive the cattle they may have taken from the colonists in their plundering expeditions; and it is at these points that the military parties are stationed. Now, if the head-quarters had been fixed in any situation to the southward of the chain of mountains alluded to, it would certainly have been a great advantage to the British settlers in the immediate neighbourhood; but it would have been too far removed from all the outposts, except the one called Kaffre Drift, which is the lowest one on the river, and would have left the upper parts of the district, where the population is more scattered, in an unprotected condition.

CHAPTER IV.

The Author sets out from Grahamstown with a Friend for Fredericksburg.—Trompetter's Drift.—Utility of a Gun. —Use of the Mimosa.—Monotonous Aspect of the Country.—A loquacious Companion.—A subject for Cruikshank.—Description of Blaaw Krantz.—Wild Chasm. —Rock Rabbits.—Military Post of Kaffre Drift.—Danger of crossing the Fish River.—"The Old Woman's Kraal."—The Author and his Friend lose their Way.—Difficulty of striking a Light.—A Night in the Woods.—Sunrise in Africa.—Continued Wanderings.—Arrival at the Village.

LEARNING that a friend of mine was in Grahamstown, and was about to return to the new settlement at Fredericksburg, where he had accepted lands on the same terms as the officers, I gladly availed myself of his knowledge of the road. After taking an early breakfast, we set off on horseback by Kaffre Drift, the nearest route, while I sent my waggon round by the ford at Trompetter's Drift, where there was

a tolerable road for wheel-carriages. My companion rode on one horse, and led two others in his hand.

Having only one horse myself, I volunteered to carry my friend's gun, who had quite sufficient employment for both hands already. A gun was an indispensable article in the wild country we were about to enter, which literally swarmed with elephants and other dangerous animals.

The distance from Grahamstown to Fredericksburg is about fifty miles, and we expected to get there before dark. In this expectation, however, I afterwards found that I had both overrated my fellow-traveller's knowledge of the country, and the strength of his horses, which were all half-grown hacks, of the worst description for standing a long journey.

On quitting the town, we passed through a long narrow valley with numerous little settlements occupied by our countrymen. A little stream wound along in the bottom, crossing the road in several places; and the sloping sides of the hills were thickly sprinkled with mimosa thorns. The bark of the mimosa is generally

used in the colony for tanning leather, and the decayed trees supply the principal part of the firewood used in Grahamstown.

We soon quitted this pretty valley, and ascending the hills to our right, travelled along the top of a high ridge of rocky hills, from whence we had an extensive view to the sea-coast at thirty miles' distance, over an endless succession of grassy ridges of nearly the same height, divided by deep woody ravines. Even at this distance, we could perceive that the country improved in verdure as it approached the coast; but its general appearance was tame and uninteresting, from want of variety.

My companion became gradually more loquacious as we advanced, and treated me with an enumeration of all the great and titled personages he had the honour of being acquainted with, or whom he counted among his connexions to third and fourth cousins; not forgetting to relate a variety of little anecdotes and conversations, the chief merit of which consisted in showing the extreme familiarity in which he had lived with them.

Of course it did not become me to interrupt

so delightful a theme, and my companion, judging from my silence that I was already deeply impressed with a feeling of his great importance, and a humiliating sense of my own comparative nothingness, soon gave the reins to his tongue, which ran on in the most voluble manner, dealing out unconnected gossip, in which every legitimate object of conversation was totally lost.

In this manner, he went on without ceasing, until I could hear nothing but the names of lords, baronets, generals, and colonels, which were banded about in a most irreverent manner, and placed in a hundred absurd situations to augment the consequence of their biographer. I could not help thinking, if happiness depended on the countenance of the great and wealthy, what a fortunate man my fellow-traveller must have been.

If the reader has any inclination to become acquainted with the person of this gentleman, let him conceive in his mind's eye a man of middle stature, with broad shoulders, bent back, and the usual number of legs and arms hung to the trunk in the most loose and unsatisfactory

manner, so that it would be hard to say whether the legs belonged to the body, or the body to the legs; a face broader than it was long, a cat-like mouth, and a broad turned-up nose, affording an unsteady support to a pair of spectacles, which danced about with the motion of the body. Let him fancy this figure hunched up on the back of a horse with the chin projected forward over the mane, and his limbs dangling and shaking about in all directions in sympathy with every false step and ungainly movement of the suffering animal.

To complete his conception of the figure in question, let him picture him equipped in a low-crowned straw hat, with broad brims flapping about in the wind; an old velvet shooting-jacket, with sundry patches on the elbows, of a fresher colour; and with a dirty haversack slung over the shoulders, containing a very insufficient supply of provisions. I shall say nothing of the trousers, shoes, and gaiters, which were not worth noticing from their great antiquity, even had they been worn by a less dignified personage.

Unfortunately, as it was quite impossible to

expect anything like a corresponding motion in his different members, my companion slackened his pace in proportion to the morbid activity of his tongue; and much time was lost on the road, so that the sun was getting low in the sky before we reached Kaffre Drift. We had, besides, rested our horses for an hour in a romantic dell into which we had descended.

This singular spot, which is called Blaaw Krantz, or the Blue Rock, deserves a particular description. The little stream which supplies Grahamstown with water, flows for several miles along the narrow valley through which we had been riding, until it reaches Blaaw Krantz, where it is met by another rivulet from the opposite extremity of the valley, and both uniting into one, find an exit towards the sea by a tremendous chasm (with perpendicular rocks on either side about three hundred feet high) which runs at right angles to the course of the valley.

It is remarkable that this chasm is formed through one of the highest parts of the long ridge which bounds the valley to the south side, and it is impossible to observe it without

feeling convinced that it has been produced by some violent convulsion of nature. The tops of the hills on either side of the chasm are so exactly on a level, and so much higher than the sources of the two streams, that it cannot be supposed for a moment that the accumulated water can ever have risen to such a height as to have worn a passage for itself towards the sea.

The entrance to this wild chasm is partially blocked up by large rocks firmly wedged together, with the edges of the strata downwards, as they have fallen from the precipices. The projecting and receding angles of the chasm on either hand exactly correspond with each other. We saw several rock-rabbits running in the face of the precipices. These curious animals are similar to those described by Bruce the traveller under the name of "ashkoko," and of which he has furnished us with an excellent drawing. By means of their long fleshy toes, they can run with ease over the smoothest rocks without slipping.

The Blaaw Krantz is a favourite resort of the Kaffres in their plundering expeditions, as they can easily conceal themselves among the

wood and bushes in the chasm, where they stand little risk of being overtaken by the colonists. The stream which has found this singular passage to the southward, after running for about a mile between perpendicular crags and high trees and jungle, at last gains a more level tract of country, and forms the Kowie river, which winds its way through deep woody ravines, until it discharges itself into the sea at thirty miles' distance. The close jungle on the banks of the Kowie abounds with elephants and buffaloes, and harbours great numbers of hyenas, leopards, and wood-antelopes.

The military post of Kaffre Drift is situated on the edge of the high bank above the Fish river; and a road has been excavated in the face of the precipitous descent, which leads down to the ford. Thousands of tall euphorbia, resembling chandeliers, were bristling up high above the bushes and small timber that covered the sides and bottom of the deep channel of the river.

The day was so far spent when we arrived at the post, that we were obliged to push on in order to pass a woody valley on our road,

which was particularly dangerous in the night-time, from the number of elephants that frequented it. My companion had by this time nearly exhausted his powers of conversation, and rode on silently before to show me how to cross the stream at the shallowest place.

The Fish river is exceedingly rapid at this point during the ebb-tide; and, in crossing it, should the horse of the traveller stumble among the slippery rocks, he stands a good chance of being carried down the stream into deep water and get drowned,—an accident which had happened a few days before. My companion was in such a hurry to get on, that he did not take time to explain the peculiarity of the ford. Observing that he pursued a crooked course, to save time, I followed him in a direct line, when, before I could see my mistake, my horse suddenly plunged over head and ears into a deep hole, and was turned round by the current, which was rushing with great velocity between the large blocks of stone.

Fortunately, I did not lose my seat; and, by a desperate effort, my horse gained a flat rock, on which he clambered up. We effected the

rest of our passage in safety. No road had been made on the opposite bank, and we had to lead our horses to the top, which was about four hundred feet above the river, through thick jungle, huge rocks, and euphorbia which had been overturned by the elephants. We saw the fresh tracks of these animals in great abundance.

When we gained the open country above the river, I perceived a great alteration in the grass, which grew very luxuriantly, there being no cattle to eat it down. We had now entered the ceded territory, which had not been occupied since it had been evacuated by the Kaffres. All their curious beehive-huts were still standing, and the palings which they had erected to protect their little patches of millet and Indian corn. It was now getting dark, and as we had still nearly seventeen miles to ride, we pushed on as fast as our horses would carry us. I now perceived that my fellow-traveller began to be puzzled to find the road.

The woody valley to which I have alluded lay in the direct road to Fredericksburg. It had obtained the name of "The Old Woman's Kraal,"

in consequence of an old Kaffre woman having been cruelly burnt to death in one of the huts, which was set on fire by some savage soldier, or colonist, during the last expedition against that unfortunate people.

To avoid this place of evil report, my companion had deviated from the road, and had got thoroughly perplexed among a multitude of old Kaffre tracks crossing each other at all angles, and leading anywhere — or nowhere, for all that we knew of them. The more his perplexity increased, the faster he rode, to make amends for the time lost.

Sometimes we descended a long ridge; then we would follow the course of a deep valley, or groped our way through a forest of mimosas, getting our faces scratched by their long thorns. Hundreds of these trees had been torn up by the elephants, and were turned in a reversed position with their roots in the air. The roots of the mimosa form a great part of the food of the elephants in this part of the country. At length, to add, if possible, to our mishaps, the horses of my companion became knocked up,

and we were compelled to remain for the night by the side of a rivulet.

All the wild animals were now abroad, and our ears were from time to time saluted with the angry screeches of the elephants, mixed with the long dismal howls of the hyena, or the impatient panting of some stray leopard.

We tied our jaded horses to a tree, and began a series of unsuccessful attempts to strike a light; but found, to our great mortification, that my companion's gun, which I had been carrying, was without a flint. Here was a fine field for the exercise of our ingenuity, and we sat down to hold a consultation on the best means of remedying our loss. We called to mind the various modes of procuring a light resorted to by savages and shipwrecked mariners, and at last determined on trying what we could do by rubbing two pieces of dry wood together. We had little difficulty in finding the necessary materials among the bushes, but discovered that it would take longer time than we could spare to acquire sufficient dexterity in the use of them.

After toiling by turns at this hopeless task

for about an hour, we hit on a plan which we should have thought of at first, and each taking a different course, we commenced a search in the bed of the rivulet for a piece of stone to supply the place of our lost flint. We wondered how we could have been so improvident as not to have taken a tinder-box with us, which now appeared to be an article of inestimable value.

After groping among the stones for some time, a shout of triumph from my companion announced the happy discovery. He had found a flat piece of hard stone, which I fixed in the place of the flint, and, stopping up the touch-hole with a thorn, I succeeded in lighting a piece of paper rubbed with wet powder, and soon contrived to make a large fire with the branches of decayed trees.

We now considered ourselves tolerably secure from the attacks of the elephants, which are generally scared away by large fires. We were not, however, quite so comfortable as we could wish, for our scanty supply of provisions had been consumed in the forenoon, and we were much exhausted with our exertions in

making our fire, which was quite large enough to cook an excellent supper. To keep our fire up during the night, we agreed to watch by turns; but, somehow or other, neither of us could compose himself to sleep. Our horses kept stamping and snorting whenever they got scent of the elephants and hyenas as they passed near us, and the inharmonious voices of the latter animals made but indifferent lullabies to people in our situation.

In this manner we passed the night, sometimes talking to pass the time, or in making ineffectual attempts to sleep. At last, we could perceive the approach of daylight; not, indeed, by the crowing of the cocks, but by the distant howls of the hyenas as they retired to their dens, many of them supperless, no doubt, like ourselves.

The sun at length made his appearance, flinging his golden beams among the mimosas sprinkled over the sloping sides of the valley; and the transparent lumps of gum which had exuded from the cracked branches shone like gems among the light graceful foliage. The scenery was not bold, but it was picturesque

and beautiful, the country being divided into long sloping ridges by pretty valleys, covered with mimosas and round clumps of small wood.

My companion rose from the ground, where he had fallen into a short slumber, and shaking himself like a spaniel, replaced his spectacles on his nose, and we proceeded to untie our horses, for we could now allow them to graze without any danger. But my fellow-traveller's horses had been ill secured, and, knowing their way better than their master, had broken loose and arrived in safety at Fredericksburg, where every one concluded that my friend had been caught by an elephant.

My poor beast was still standing where I had tied him, looking very impatient for his breakfast. Fastening his neck down to his leg with a leathern thong in the usual manner of the colony, I turned him loose to graze, while we proceeded to look for the deserters. Our search however was vain; so I saddled my horse, and we renewed our journey, riding and walking by turns.

At first, my companion was confident that he knew the locality perfectly, and that we

were only three or four miles from the new settlement. We saw several Kaffre kraals, or hamlets in the heights, each of which he fancied was close to the village. We wandered about the whole day, sometimes following the course of a rivulet, which my friend thought would lead us in the right direction, sometimes crossing deep ravines.

I now perceived that I might as well have had a blind man for a guide. At last, between hunger and vexation, I lost all patience with him, and told him that he might do as he pleased, that I would follow his meanderings no farther, but should proceed to the sea-coast and examine every river till I found the place we were in search of.

He was still unwilling to confess his ignorance, and begged me to make another trial, for he was sure that if we ascended a high hill, to which he pointed, we should be immediately over the village. After some discussion, I agreed to this proposal; but, like our other attempts, it ended in disappointment.

We had seen several honey-birds, and I wished very much to follow them to the hives;

but my companion was too much exhausted for any additional fatigue, so we contented ourselves with picking some pieces of gum from the mimosas, which relieved our hunger a little.

I now fully expected to spend another night in the fields, when we heard a shot at about half-a-mile's distance. It happened to be Sunday, when several of the soldiers were out shooting. We instantly made for the place where we heard the sound, and overtook two of our people, who conducted us to the village, which was not above three miles off.

CHAPTER V.

Formation of a new Village.—The Author's Cottage.—Particulars respecting the Elephant.—Exciting Sport of hunting the Animal.—One killed.—Use made of the Carcass.—Detailed Account of an Elephant Hunt.—Miraculous Escape of the Author.—Meeting with his Brother after the Adventure.—Soldier killed by an Elephant.—Remarkable instance of Affection and Sagacity.—Search for the Body of the unfortunate Man.—Extraordinary Swiftness of the Elephant when enraged.—Hottentot Mode of hunting the Animal.—Rhinoceroses and Buffaloes.—Hippopotami, or Sea-cows.—Leopards and Antelopes.

After crossing the bed of a periodical rivulet and ascending a grassy hill, we came in sight of our new village, that had cost us so much trouble to find. It was seated in the bottom of a picturesque valley, surrounded on all sides by lofty hills studded with clumps of small wood and mimosas.

The streets of the future town had already

been laid out with exact regularity along the banks of a little stream, which formed several level and verdant peninsulas in its progress through the valley. Some of the hills terminated in perpendicular crags, with brushwood and creeping plants growing among the shelves, which imparted additional beauty to the scenery.

On the opposite side of the village, the stream being obstructed by rocks, formed a long deep pool between its level banks, which were ornamented along the margin by a skreen of trees and graceful shrubs. At one place, which I afterwards chose for the site of my cottage, two venerable and wide-spreading yellow-wood trees, standing on the opposite banks of the stream, united their branches and formed a verdant arch over the glassy pool, covered with a rich drapery of climbing plants, which drooped into the water beneath. All the "erven," or building lots, had been marked out, and were divided from each other by turf walls, or artificial hedges of mimosa; and several comfortable cottages had already been erected by the new settlers.

I soon found the hut of my naval brother, who immediately produced something to relieve my hunger; for, after my long fast, my appetite was much more keen than fastidious. The officers were all exceedingly diverted with my account of our journey from Grahamstown, and could not conceive how my companion could have mistaken the way, after having travelled so frequently over the country in the course of service.

Our conversation, among other matters, turned upon elephant-hunting; and D—— informed me that the party had already shot eight or nine of them. The elephants are generally shy of the habitations of man, keeping close in the woods and in the jungly ravines in the day-time; but in this part of the country, which had remained without inhabitants since the Kaffres had been driven beyond the Kieskamma, they had become bolder, and whole troops of them were often seen quietly browsing among the scattered mimosas in the open fields. The mode our settlers had adopted of attacking these huge animals was borrowed from the

Elephants are well known to be afraid of fire; and, when our people discovered a troop of them in the open fields, they set light to the long grass in several places, so as to enclose them in a circle of flame and smoke; and, after firing at them, in the event of their giving chase, they sought protection beyond the circle.

Our people were so little acquainted with the most vulnerable points of the animals to ensure the full effect of their fire, that killing an elephant was generally the work of several hours, when at last he would fall from loss of blood, or by some fortunate shot hitting him in a mortal place.

I was exceedingly delighted with these accounts, and impatient to take part in the exciting sport. I determined, however, to be cautious at first, until I learned something of the manners of this dangerous animal. An opportunity offered sooner than I could expect; for the very next day after my arrival at the village, we had hardly finished our breakfast, when we heard a succession of shots in the valley below the settlement, and all the people were instantly in motion, loading their firelocks

and rushing to the field of action. My brother and I soon followed, accompanied by my two Hottentots, who had never seen an elephant before.

We had scarcely taken our station on an eminence above the valley, when the huge animal, which was a female, was seen wading through the bushes, throwing up her trunk in the air and flapping her ears, which in the African species are much larger than the Asiatic, resembling immense fans. A general discharge was immediately opened on her from both sides of the valley, when, uttering a thrilling cry like the note of a trumpet, she plunged into the thickest part of the jungle, where for a time she was partially concealed by the trees.

Some of the party, stationed on the rocks on the opposite side of the jungle, succeeded in driving her to the open plain.

My two Hottentots, who were excellent marksmen, now managed to steal round a corner of the bushes unperceived by the harassed and enraged animal, and each taking a different aim, one of them shot her through

the eyes, while the other put his ball through her trunk. The poor beast, now thoroughly disabled, went on slowly over the plain, while the hunters poured whole volleys of balls into her body.

Not being aware of her being blinded at this moment, I was exceedingly alarmed for the safety of my brother, who, advancing within thirty paces of the elephant, fired into her head without any attempt on her part to chase him. He himself was not aware of the circumstance, but was encouraged by her apparent tameness to approach nearer than any of the other hunters. Shortly afterwards, a well-directed shot brought her to the ground, and we obtained a tolerably easy conquest over our enemy.

Several of our people immediately set to work to open the elephant with their axes and knives, for the sake of the fat, which we used for candles after mixing it with hard fat, for it was too soft by itself, being somewhat of the nature of hog's-lard. The teeth were of course also extracted, and, according to custom, awarded to the person who had given the animal the death-shot.

The only use we made of the skin was to form a kind of temporary tan-pit, by fixing a large square portion of it on four sticks driven into the ground, in which we prepared our sheepskins with mimosa bark for trousers. These tanned leather trousers are much used by the inhabitants of the colony for riding or working in, as they are very durable, and are not liable to be torn by the thorns and bushes. The Dutch generally sew them with the sinews taken from the neck and back-bone of their cattle, which are found to last much longer than thread.

Some parts of the elephant are very good eating, particularly the trunk, tongue, and feet. The other parts of the body are also eaten by the Hottentots; but the flesh is exceedingly coarse and stringy, though by no means unpleasant in the flavour, which resembles that of lean beef.

The first hunt I witnessed of this animal was attended with less danger to the assailants than is usual, from the circumstance of her being disabled as I have related; but the one which succeeded on the following day was at-

tended with much greater risk to all concerned in it, and ended in a tragical manner. An account of this adventure, furnished by myself, has already appeared in print: I shall nevertheless relate it in nearly similar terms.

One of our servants having come to inform us that a large troop of elephants had been discovered in the neighbourhood of the settlement, and that several of our people were already on their way to attack them, I instantly set off to join the hunters.

The beautiful stream called by the Kaffres the Gualana, after leaving the village, took its course through an extensive wood or jungle, and again made its appearance in an open meadow, running close under the high hills on one side of the valley for several hundred yards, when it again entered a long strip of jungle. In consequence of losing my way in the jungle, I could not overtake the hunters until they had driven the elephants from their first station.

On getting out of the wood, I was proceeding through the meadow to a distant kloof, or ravine, where I heard the firing, and had nearly

reached the carcass of the elephant which we had killed the day before, when I was suddenly warned of approaching danger by loud cries of "Pas op," (Look out,) coupled with my name in Dutch and English; and, at the same moment, heard the cracking of broken branches, produced by the elephants bursting through the wood, and their angry screams resounding among the precipitous banks of the river.

Immediately a large female, accompanied by three others of a smaller size, issued from the jungle which skirted the river margin. As they were not more than two hundred yards off, and were proceeding directly towards me, I had not much time to decide on my motions. Being alone and in the middle of a little open plain, I saw that I must inevitably be caught, should I fire in this position and my shot not take effect.

I therefore retreated hastily out of their direct path, thinking they would not observe me, until I should find a better opportunity to attack them. But in this I was mistaken; for, on looking back, I perceived, to my dismay,

that they had left their former course and were rapidly pursuing and gaining ground on me. Under these circumstances, I determined to reserve my fire as a last resource; and, turning off at right angles in the opposite direction, I made for the banks of the small river, with the view to take refuge among the rocks on the other side, where I should have been safe.

Before I got within fifty yards of the river, the elephants were within twenty paces of me, —the large female in the middle, and the other three on either side of her, apparently with the intention of making sure of me; all of them screaming so tremendously that I was almost stunned by the noise. I immediately turned round, cocked my gun, and aimed at the head of the largest—the female. But the gun, unfortunately, from the powder being damp, hung fire till I was in the act of taking it from my shoulder, when it went off, and the ball merely grazed the side of her head.

Halting only for an instant, the animal again rushed furiously forward. I fell—I cannot say whether struck down by her trunk or not. She then made a thrust at me with her tusk. For-

tunately for me, she had only one, which still, more luckily, missed its mark. Seizing me with her trunk by the middle, she threw me beneath her fore-feet, and knocked me about between them for a little space: I was scarcely in a condition to compute the time very accurately, but, judging from my feelings, it appeared an intolerably long one, and I had great reason to complain of the "leaden-footed" minutes, which seemed to be hours in my uncomfortable situation.

Once she pressed her foot on my chest with such force, that I felt the bones bending under the weight: and then she trod on the middle of my arm, which fortunately lay flat on the ground at the time. During this rough handling, however, I never entirely lost my recollection, else I have little doubt she would have settled my accounts with this world: but, owing to the roundness of her foot, I generally managed, by twisting my body and limbs, to escape her direct tread.

While I was still undergoing this buffeting, Lieutenant Chisholm, of the Royal African Corps, and Diedrick, a Hottentot, fired several

shots at her from the side of a neighbouring hill, one of which hit her in the shoulder; and at the same time her companions, or young ones, retiring and screaming to her from the edge of the forest, she reluctantly left me, giving me a cuff or two with her hind feet in passing.

I rose, picked up my gun, and staggered away as fast as my aching bones would allow me; but, observing that she turned round, as if meditating a second attempt on my life, before entering the bush, I lay down in the long grass, by which means I escaped her observation.

On reaching the top of the steep hill on the opposite side of the valley, I met my brother, who had not been at this day's hunt, but had run out on being told by one of the men that he had seen one of the officers killed. The person who carried him this intelligence, going up to him very deliberately addressed him in the following manner, with the utmost *sang froid:* "Sir, I saw somebody killed by the elephant just now; I don't know whether it was your brother, or Mr. Chisholm; but killed he was, for I saw his brains."

He afterwards heard from others he met on the way that I was the unlucky person, and was of course not a little surprised at seeing me alone, and with whole bones, though plastered with mud from head to foot. My face was a little scratched, indeed, by the elephant's feet, which were none of the smoothest; my ribs ached, and my right arm was blackened with the squeeze it got; but these were trifling injuries considering the ordeal I had gone through.

While my brother, Mr. Knight of the Cape regiment, and I were yet talking of the adventure, an unlucky soldier of the Royal African Corps, of the name of M'Clare, attracted the attention of a large male elephant, which had been driven towards the village. The ferocious animal, which, like that I had just escaped from, had been infuriated by the numerous wounds he had received, instantly gave chase, and caught him under the height where we were standing, carried him some distance in his trunk — then threw him down, and, bringing his fore feet together, trod and stamped upon him for a considerable time,

till life was extinct. Leaving the body for a while, he again returned, as if to make quite sure of his destruction, and, kneeling down, crushed and kneaded the body with his fore-legs. Then, seizing it again with his trunk, he carried it to the edge of the jungle, and threw it upon the top of a high bush.

While this tragedy was going on, my brother and I scrambled down the rocky hill and fired at the furious animal: but we were at too great a distance to be of any service to the unfortunate man, who was almost crushed to pieces. Even in the act of chasing, a good shot from one of the hunters generally makes an elephant turn round and fly to the woods, where he remains until he is again attacked, when he will rush out in pursuit of any of the assailants who ventures too near him.

On the present occasion, the hunters derived some security from their numbers, for, as soon as the elephant gave them chase, they retreated as fast as their legs would carry them up the side of the hills, and the animal, seemingly puzzled which to wreak his vengeance on, after pursuing them for two or three hundred

yards, would stop short, and return to the wood for security.

Woe betide the luckless wight who lags too far behind the rest! for the elephant will instantly single him out, and sacrifice him to his rage. It happened thus to the poor fellow whose fate I have recorded. Getting tired of the sport, he gave his firelock to another of the party, with the intention of returning to the village, just at the moment when the male elephant was making a charge on his pursuers. Instead of following the others in their flight, he turned in the opposite direction, and, being without his coat and waistcoat, his white shirt immediately attracted the animal's attention, when he was about to retreat to the wood, and he caught him as I have related. Shortly after this catastrophe, a shot from one of the people broke this male elephant's left fore-leg, which completely disabled him from running.

On this occasion, we witnessed a touching instance of affection and sagacity in the elephant which deserves to be related, as it so well illustrates the character of this noble animal. Seeing the danger and distress of her

mate, the female from which I so narrowly escaped, regardless of her own danger, quitting her shelter in the wood, rushed out to his assistance, walked round and round him, chasing away the assailants, and still returning to his side and caressing him.

Whenever he attempted to walk, she placed her flank or her shoulder to his wounded side, and supported him. This scene continued nearly half an hour, until the female received a severe wound from Mr. C. Mackenzie, of the Royal African Corps, which drove her again to the bush, where she speedily sank exhausted from the loss of blood; and the male soon afterwards received a mortal wound from the same officer.

Thus ended our elephant hunt; and I need hardly say, that from what we witnessed on this occasion of the intrepidity and ferocity of these powerful creatures, we became more cautious in our dealings with them for the future.

We now went in search of the body of the unfortunate victim, and found it stretched on the thick bush where it had been thrown by

the elephant. The face and shoulders were turned towards the back, and the legs and arms were broken or distorted. All the clothes of the unfortunate man were torn to shreds and patches by the rough feet of the enraged animal, so that not a single piece remained of the size of a man's hand, except the tanned sheep-skin trousers which he wore. After making a rude bier, we carried the mangled corpse to the village, where we interred it next day, and covered the grave with thorns to prevent the hyenas from scraping it up in the night-time.

It is a common idea that elephants move only at a very slow pace on account of the unwieldy size of their bodies. This is a very erroneous supposition; for though, on ordinary occasions, they go at a very sluggish rate, yet, when they are disturbed or enraged, they are very swift, and can easily overtake the best runner, and have even been known to be more than a match for a horseman when the ground is level or sloping.

The quickest pace of the elephant is a trot, and I observed that the legs of the large male

which caught the man, moved as fast as those of a horse at the same pace. I had afterwards the curiosity to measure the distance between the prints of the animal's feet, and found that it was about nine feet, where he ran with the greatest speed in pursuit of his victim. This elephant did not exceed ten feet in height. After ascertaining the number of steps a horse usually takes in any given time while trotting, and the length of each step, we may easily calculate the comparative speed of an elephant with tolerable accuracy.

Fortunately, however, unless they are able to seize their enemy at the first rush, they seldom continue the pursuit for any considerable distance.

The eye of the elephant is very small in proportion to the size of the body, and these animals are apparently incapable of seeing objects distinctly when more than two or three hundred yards off. But glaring colours, such as white or scarlet, readily attract their attention, and expose the hunters who wear them to great danger during the chase. For this reason, the Hottentots generally strip themselves naked

before proceeding to attack them, if any of their clothes happen to be of a light colour. It is also common for the hunters to anoint their bodies, to prevent the animals from detecting them by their keen scent.

The manner in which we hunted them at Fredericksburg was attended with greater danger than the mode commonly adopted by the Hottentots. The latter generally attack them in the woods or bushes, where they can get much nearer to them, by observing the direction of the wind, and when pursued, they can easily make their escape by dodging them and crossing their path. This, however, requires great presence of mind and long practice, as there is some danger, in making their escape from one elephant, of falling in with another.

Sometimes, when we were hard at work in our gardens, a large male elephant would be seen walking deliberately along the sloping sides of the valley, and through the midst of our cattle, which would open a lane for his passage. On these occasions, our axes and spades were immediately thrown aside, and we started in pursuit, some on horseback, others on foot.

Among the elephants we killed at the new settlement, one was found with a large fragment of a tusk deeply embedded in his head, which he had received in fighting with another of his species.

There were a considerable number of rhinoceroses and buffaloes in the bushes along the banks of the Fish river, and in the mouths of all the rivers along the coast we frequently observed hippopotami, or "sea-cows," as they are generally called in the colony. The sea-cows are rarely seen on dry land in the day-time, but, during the night, they come ashore to graze, and wander over the plains for several miles. In this manner, they cross the country from one river to another.

The ceded territory also swarmed with hyenas, which were much bolder than in other parts of the colony, from being little disturbed with fire-arms. We also occasionally met with leopards. All the different species of antelopes, which formerly abounded in this district, were exceedingly scarce, having been nearly extirpated by the Kaffres.

CHAPTER VI.

Mode of erecting a Hut. — Clearing the Land. — Conflict between a Snake and three Rats. — Jealousies among the New Settlers. — Advantage taken of the absence of the Author's Brother. — Selfish Proceeding. — Vexatious Delay. — Injurious Prohibition. — No Market for the Sale of Agricultural Produce. — Encouragement to Servants. — Return of Lord Charles Somerset to the Colony. — First Acts of the Governor. — Situation of the Settlers. — Atrocious Conduct of the Soldiers hired as Servants. — Intentions of the Kaffres. — Eccentricities of Mackenzie, the Author's Friend. — He quits the Settlement. — The Author's Brother appointed Magistrate. — His Change of Residence.

My brother D—— had engaged three of the soldiers of the Royal African Corps in my name before I was able to join the settlement, and, after selecting a lot of ground for a garden, my first care was to employ them in erecting a hut. These cottages were of the simplest construction. After cutting a couple of waggon-loads of strong posts in the woods near the

village, we planted them in holes dug in the ground along the foundation already marked out. We then returned to the bush and cut a quantity of thin straight twigs, which we wove between the upright posts like basket-work, and afterwards plastered with successive layers of wrought clay mixed with sand and cowdung.

When the walls were dry, we washed them over with a size, made by boiling down an elephant's foot, and mixing the decoction with a kind of white clay, which we obtained from the banks of the river. We found also plenty of rushes to thatch our huts along the banks of the Gualana and the other streams. Many of the cottages were built of turf and thatched with long grass. In a few months two or three brick houses were commenced, but were never finished, in consequence of the settlement being relinquished. We also cleared the lots of ground in the village which were assigned to each of the officers for gardens, from the mimosas which encumbered the surface, and planted them with potatoes, Indian corn, pumpkins and other vegetables, or sowed them with wheat.

Soon after I got into my new house, I witnessed a combat between a snake and three rats. I was awakened one morning by hearing a sudden splash in a basin of water I had left on the floor near my bed, and observed a snake glide through it, followed by a large rat and two smaller ones. The reptile then coiled itself up and watched the motions of its assailants; whenever the large rat attempted to bite its tail it made a dart at him and drove him away. In the mean time, the two smaller rats, which were not bold enough to attack the common enemy, ran round him on all sides to divert his attention, grinding their teeth all the while.

This singular combat continued for about half-an-hour, and, anxious to see which side would gain the day, I lay quietly in bed for fear of disturbing them. It seemed to be a drawn battle, for the snake, after receiving several bites in his tail from his principal enemy, made his escape into a hole in the wall of the hut. I was surprised at the activity and address of the rats during the whole engagement, and they all seemed to have escaped unhurt.

Everything went on well for some time at

our new settlement. Some little jealousies, however, occurred to interrupt the harmony that prevailed among the new settlers. The late commanding-officer of the Royal African Corps could not reconcile himself to the preference given to my brother by the officers, as their civil magistrate; and, having a large share of low cunning, he spared no pains in fomenting discontent among them, in order to get himself placed in authority over them. He artfully represented to the officers of the regiment that they had injured themselves by admitting my brothers and me, and some half-pay officers from the settlement in Albany, into their association. Forgetting that they could not have employed the requisite number of servants without our assistance, and that we added strength and security to the settlement, the officers resolved, in a private meeting among themselves, to choose their farms without our knowledge.

Taking advantage, therefore, of the temporary absence of my brothers and myself, they proceeded to select their farms in such a manner as left us no ground worth holding, from

want of water. The country, though it abounded in grass, was exceedingly deficient in water; and, being entirely without springs, the only places which could be occupied were along the course of the rivers, many of which were merely periodical streams, drying up entirely in hot seasons, or standing in stagnant pools in the ravines. The Gualana was the strongest of these streams, and the site for the village of Fredericksburg was therefore chosen on its banks.

When my brother D—— returned to Fredericksburg, which was a few days before I joined him, he found that one of the officers of the Royal African Corps had modestly chosen for his farm a strip of land on each side of the Gualana, extending to the distance of six miles from the neighbourhood of the village to the sea-coast. Another had selected his land above the village in a similarly exclusive manner;—and the other officers had done the like on the Beeka river, and in every other situation where a constant supply of water could be found.

Disgusted with this mean and selfish proceeding, my brother and I immediately applied

to the landdrost, or chief magistrate of the district of Albany, who determined that we should all choose our farms by drawing lots, after a sufficient number should be surveyed and measured.

After we had counteracted this contemptible manœuvre, into which the officers had been led, matters went on very smoothly for a little time. But, from the confused and dilatory manner in which everything was at that time conducted on the frontier, and notwithstanding the express promise of the acting-governor that our farms should be measured without delay, many months elapsed without any steps being taken for this purpose. We were compelled to farm at a great disadvantage, as we could only employ our people on the building lots of the village, which were far too small to afford us any profit.

To add to our misfortunes, the wheat we had sown entirely failed from the disease called the "rust," to which I have already alluded. In forming this settlement, the acting-governor, in his anxiety to create a dense population, had fallen into a great error, which was discovered

when too late to be remedied. By one of the articles of agreement, we were directed to turn our attention exclusively to agriculture and the cultivation of the vine, and not to grazing, as he conceived that the possession of cattle would act as a temptation to the Kaffres to enter the new settlement for the purpose of plunder.

Now, as our hands were tied in this respect, it was necessary to our success that we should have a profitable market for our produce. The distance to Grahamstown was too great to carry our produce there with any profit. Had the acting-governor been better acquainted with the circumstances of the colony, he certainly would never have prohibited us from following the only profitable branch of farming in a remote settlement.

A dense population of agriculturists cannot, in the nature of things, ever exist among civilized men, without a corresponding facility of bringing their exchangeable produce to market. There is, however, every reason to think that had the acting-governor remained in the colony,

he would have seen his mistake, and have relaxed in this particular.

In this persuasion, we continued to make the best of circumstances, and our people, knowing that their getting discharged from the service entirely depended on their good conduct, continued to work hard, and were quite contented with their situation. As all the soldiers of the Royal African Corps who did not join our settlement were not entitled to their freedom, it is evident that our success entirely depended on the strict observance of this *sine quá non.*

Some time, however, after the formation of the new colony, several of the soldiers who had not accepted the terms received their discharge from the service. The consequence of this was, that all our servants, who had hitherto behaved in a remarkably quiet and tractable manner, considering the materials of which the regiment was composed, became extremely unruly and discontented.

They naturally thought that they had been tricked into a disadvantageous agreement, and

began to desert the settlement, or to demand as high wages as were given to Europeans in Grahamstown. The wages we paid our servants were low, but quite as much as we could afford, considering our distance from Grahamstown, which was the only market for our produce.

Further to encourage the infant settlement, the acting-governor allowed rations to our servants for nine months, until it was supposed we should be able to support them from the produce of our land. Advantageous as these terms appeared to be to the officers, they did not compensate by any means for the expenses we incurred in procuring agricultural implements, and by being compelled to remain in the village.

It was in vain we attempted to enforce our agreements with the soldiers. To prosecute them before the landdrost at Grahamstown, we had to ride upwards of fifty miles; and even after they had been imprisoned and flogged, when they returned to Fredericksburg they were so unruly that we could do little with them, and soon deserted us again.

Many of us, however, to prevent the entire

desertion of the settlement, agreed to increase their wages. While matters were in this state, Lord Charles Somerset, the governor, returned to the colony, and immediately began to overturn every arrangement or alteration which had been made by the acting-governor during his absence. The new settlement at Fredericksburg, which had been the favourite child of his predecessor, felt the first effects of the change of system; and we soon found that we could no longer expect encouragement on the part of the colonial government.

As might have been expected from Sir Rufane Donkin's short residence on the Kaffre frontier, many parts of the plan of this settlement were crude and inapplicable to the nature and circumstances of the country; but, from an express promise made by Sir Rufane in our written articles of agreement, we had every reason to expect that they would afterwards be modified to suit the interests of the first settlers, in the event of their being found incompatible with the success of the establishment. From the present governor, we met with no such encouragement; and from what followed we plainly saw that he

was decidedly averse to the settlement altogether.

Though the acting-governor had himself seriously checked the progress of the settlement, by granting discharges to the soldiers of the Royal African Corps who had not accepted the terms offered them on its first establishment, and who were to have been drafted into other condemned regiments—yet, had our farms been measured and granted to us without delay, there is little doubt that we should ultimately have been able to establish ourselves in the ceded territory, and have continued to afford protection to the settlers behind us.

One of the first acts of the governor on his return to the colony was to remove a party of the Cape regiment which had been stationed at Fredericksburg by Sir Rufane Donkin, as a further protection to the new settlement, particularly when we should be scattered over the country on our different farms. The answers we received to our humble memorials on these subjects showed us plainly that we had no favour to expect. We still hoped to keep

our ground, in spite of all these discouragements, if the government would only grant us our farms according to the terms of the agreement entered into with the acting-governor; but our applications on this head were evaded until many of the officers had relinquished the settlement in despair.

We now heard that the governor had stated to his friends that the country on which we had been located had been established by a treaty with the Kaffres as a *neutral*, and not a *ceded* territory, and that the acting-governor had unwittingly infringed the said treaty by forming the settlement in question. This, however, was never stated to us in the answers to our memorials, and we continued in our present position, at a great loss to ourselves, for several months longer; for we naturally enough concluded, that our settlement being contrary to treaty, would be at once broken up by the governor on his own authority.

This, however, was never attempted; and thus we were doomed to be sacrificed between the conflicting views of two governors, with

whom we had no connexion but in their official capacity as heads of the government, and on the stability of whose measures we had every reason to rely.

In these observations, I have no intention of imputing blame to either the governor, or to Sir Rufane Donkin, the latter of whom in particular, into whatever errors he may have fallen from insufficient acquaintance with the circumstances of the colony, had undoubtedly its interests at heart. I only wish to give a fair and unprejudiced narrative of the proceedings connected with the settlement, and the causes of its ultimate failure.

My eldest brother, who had been appointed "special humraad," or magistrate, to our settlement, had been so long detained in arranging his private affairs in the district of Swellendam, that he had not been able to join us at Fredericksburg until great disturbances had occurred among our servants, who, being almost all bad and dangerous characters, had broken out into a hundred excesses for want of any legal restraint.

Their late commanding officer, whom they

hated beyond measure, was, in particular, in considerable danger from these armed ruffians. One day, in crossing a ford in the river, I overheard a curious conversation between some of his servants, who were abusing him in the most unqualified manner. One of the miscreants, a ferocious-looking fellow, said to the others in plain terms, "I 'll put a ball through the ould ——!" "Let him alone," said another; "he 's only an ould woman." The first speaker repeated his threat in a still more ferocious and determined tone.

My appearance interrupted the conversation; and, not allowing them to suppose that I had heard what was said, I lost no time in communicating their kind intentions to the object of their indignation, who was extremely shocked to find that he was not so much beloved by his men as he had imagined. This gentleman, like several other weak minds, was afflicted with an extreme desire of becoming popular among the common soldiers; but, as frequently happens, he concealed it with so little skill, that he only got their contempt and hatred. But the people, on their side, flattered him so skilfully,

when it served their turn, that he was thoroughly persuaded of their attachment to him.

On another occasion, during their master's absence in Grahamstown, some of his people, after regaling themselves with his brandy, were amusing themselves galloping about on his horse. One of the fellows, who wished to have a ride in his turn, but could not prevail on the present occupant to relinquish his seat, ran into the house for his firelock, and, concealing himself behind a bush, lay down on his face, and, taking a deliberate aim at the other over an ant-hill, fired at him as he passed. The ball whistled so close past the man's head that he fell from the horse, and I thought, as well as the man who fired, that he was killed.

The rascal immediately jumped from his concealment, waved his hat, and running towards his fallen enemy, called out to him, "Have I done for you, you ——?" The other, getting on his feet, shook his fist at him, and shouted in reply, "Is it you that fired at me, you ——? I'll pay you off for this yet!"

Frequently, while walking about the village

with some of the officers, a ball would whistle past our ears, and it was impossible to say whether it was meant for us or not. I believe, however, it generally proceeded from drunkenness and utter indifference as to the consequences.

Our numbers, in the mean time, were diminishing by desertion every day, so that in a short time we had not above half the people we had originally engaged as servants, who amounted at first to upwards of sixty, the number fixed upon by Sir Rufane Donkin. Several of the officers, however, still remained at Fredericksburg; but at last a report was brought to us that the Kaffres intended to make an attack on Grahamstown on the next full moon, and that they would take Fredericksburg on their way. This intelligence induced all the officers to leave the settlement without delay, excepting my brother and myself; and Mr. Colin Mackenzie, of the Royal African Corps, whom I have already mentioned, generously determined to remain with us for some time.

Just about this time, an offer was made to the officers to put them on full pay again, if they

would go to the west coast of Africa. Several of them accepted the terms, and before they had been in that unhealthy country twelve months they all died from the effects of the climate, including our friend Mackenzie.

This young man was a singular character. He had an excellent understanding, and was fond of reading; but he was so indolent and improvident, that he literally allowed the morrow to provide for the things of itself. His ruling passion was for hunting, and he would pass days and nights in the fields, accompanied by a half-wild Hottentot, whose habits he had completely adopted.

In company with his "*fides Achates*," he had had several hair-breadth escapes from elephants and rhinoceroses, and knew every bush and wild ravine in the ceded territory. When in search of game, he pulled off his trousers and walked with his bare legs in the sun, till they were nearly as brown as those of his companion. If his provisions fell short, which often happened on these expeditions, like the Hottentots, he would tie a leather thong round

his middle, and thus deaden the pangs of hunger until he fell in with something to shoot.

He one day persuaded me to try his light mode of travelling, and, in imitation of him, I pulled off my nether garments and carried them slung over my shoulders. After walking between twenty and thirty miles, over hill and dale, and through woody ravines, I found that my legs had got completely scorched with the heat of the sun, and smarted as if they had been dipped in boiling water. The pain became so intolerable by the time we reached the village, that to ease it I waded into the river, where I remained for a quarter of an hour.

This at first gave me some respite, but afterwards aggravated my sufferings, and the skin, which had been all in one blister, afterwards contracted so that I could not straighten my knees or walk for two or three days without great pain. This was an excellent joke for Colin, who was fond of showing the superiority which custom had given him in this respect. He was of a dark complexion, and was well

aware of the advantage this circumstance gave him in enabling him to escape being blistered by the sun.

Poor Mackenzie was no economist, and always left everything he possessed to the mercy of his servants, who were anything but honest. His money was often deposited between the leaves of any book he had been reading, or left in an old trunk which contained his scanty wardrobe, and which had no lock. The provisions which should have lasted him and his servants for a week, the latter generally managed to consume in two or three days, leaving their master almost destitute of food. I often found him in this condition, poring over a book with a cup of tea before him and some cold rice; yet he never complained or lost his usual composure.

Sometimes, in pure compassion, one of his servants would come to tell him that he saw some wild pigeons sitting on a tree, or a duck swimming on a pool in the river, when Mackenzie would take his gun and endeavour to shoot something for his dinner. On other occasions, after he had been traversing the coun-

try for several hours, he would find a beehive in a hollow tree, and might be seen coming home with his face much swollen from the stings, and his hat full of honeycombs, which he was devouring with great relish, young bees and all.

When he happened to kill any eatable animal, such as a buffalo or an antelope, he cut off just as much of it as would satisfy his hunger for a couple of days, and gave the remainder to his brother officers, or to any one who would take the trouble to fetch it home. On determining to remain with my brother and me at Fredericksburg, after we were deserted by the rest of the officers, his whole stock of provisions consisted of some tea, to which he was very partial, and a few pounds of rice.

For the rest, he depended on his gun. Yet he was so independent, that I had great difficulty in persuading him to share our provisions with us, which were of a more substantial description. Money, poor fellow, he had none; and where his half-pay went, neither he nor any one else knew, except his servants who plundered him.

We at last fell on a plan to spare his delicate feelings. I told him one day that we had no more rice, of which he had still some remaining, and therefore wished to join our stores to his, so that we might have some of his rice to eat with our beef, and he might have part of our meat at the same time. This arrangement satisfied him, and he consented to join our mess. Thus we lived very contentedly together for two or three weeks, without any sensible diminution of our friend's rice. The threatened invasion of the Kaffres never took place.

Though a few stragglers of this nation had occasionally been seen near us, they had never made any attempt of a hostile nature on our village, with the exception of stealing a few head of cattle. At last, Mackenzie, to whom we were extremely attached, was obliged to quit us to join the other officers of the Royal African Corps, who were going to the country where their bones were destined to remain. I never felt more at parting with a brother, than when this generous, brave, kind-hearted, and careless young Highlander took leave of us and

our ill-fated settlement. He had, with all this indifference to self-interest, more strong sense, acuteness of observation, and originality of thinking, than any of the other officers of his regiment. He was generally esteemed by the men of the regiment, simply because he was fearless of danger, and did not care whether they liked him or not.

My eldest brother, who had been appointed as magistrate to the settlement, seeing how matters were going on at Fredericksburg, had procured another grant of land near the Bosjesman's river in the district of Uitenhage, where he determined to take up his new abode; my brother D—— went to meet him, while I remained at the now almost deserted village with the five men whom we had persuaded to remain with us.

CHAPTER VII.

Continued Disappointments. — Nocturnal Attacks of the Kaffres.—An unexpected Meeting.—Forbearance of the Author. — Protection afforded by the Dogs. — Cowardly conduct of a Servant.—Repeated annoyances of the Kaffres.—Application for the assistance of a Party of Soldiers. Ludicrous Adventure.—Patrol sent to Fredericksburg.—Muscular strength of the Irish and Scotch.—Traces of the Enemy.—Refusal of the Commandant of the Frontier. —The Author and his Brother quit the Settlement.—Faculties of the Elephant. — Defence against wild Animals. — Troop of Elephants. — An alarm. — Arrival at Grahamstown.—Journey to the Bosjesman's River.—Strata of Sandstone.— Passage over Jager's Drift. — House of a Dutch Farmer.—Place of Destination.

D—— had become thoroughly discouraged with our hopeless situation; but as I determined to remain at Fredericksburg as long as the governor or the Kaffres would allow me, he would not leave me. Nothing had as yet occurred to alarm us particularly, and we had

still some hopes that we might get some compensation for our losses, which had been principally occasioned by relying too much on the good faith of the government. We foolishly imagined that one governor was bound to perform what another had promised, and we could not conceive why we should be the sufferers by the diversity of their views. We were bad grammarians—we mistook the plural for the singular.

The Kaffres, in the mean while, who were naturally jealous of our settlement, had been watching our motions from the tops of the hills above the village, where they concealed themselves in the clumps of bushes in the daytime, and had been prowling about the deserted cottages at night, to pick up any pieces of iron they might find.

Seeing that the settlement was only occupied by five or six people, they soon began to annoy us exceedingly every dark night; and our dogs kept up a continual barking, so that we were at last compelled to be on the watch round our cottage, with our guns loaded to prevent their setting fire to the thatch.

One night they carried off a large iron pot, a quantity of spades, and other agricultural implements, which we had deposited in a neighbouring hut; but it was so exceedingly dark, that we could not get a sight of them, though we could hear their voices. The following day I took my horse and gun, and rode round the country in the neighbourhood of the village, to endeavour to find their tracks in the long grass, and was returning after a fruitless search, when, as I was descending a steep path along the sharp ridge of a hill above the settlement, I suddenly heard a rustling in a clump of bush I was passing.

Thinking it was a leopard, I drew back a few paces, and, dismounting from my horse, advanced towards the bush; and looking under the branches, I saw three Kaffres sitting on the ground observing the village. The moment they perceived me, one of them gave a whistle as a signal to his companions, and scrambled down the face of a precipice on one side of the narrow path, while another ran off in an opposite direction towards a thick jungle.

The third, who had been asleep, was taken

so unawares, that he knew not what to do, and continued crouching under the bush looking at me with a bundle of "assagays" or javelins in his hand. I had him completely at my mercy. I cocked my gun and took aim at him; but though I well knew how he would have acted in the like case, I could not bring myself to shoot a man so entirely in my power; and, taking the gun from my shoulder, I allowed him to make his escape in the bushes.

I thought my forbearance would have some effect in conciliating our enemies, and save us some of their nightly visits. In this expectation I was completely disappointed, for it was hardly dark before the barking of the dogs was renewed as usual, and we soon perceived that a cottage near us was in flames, and several attempts were made to set fire to another house next to the one we inhabited.

Two or three times the Kaffres succeeded in thrusting a lighted stick into the thatch; but by the glare from the flames of the burning cottage we were enabled to fire upon the assailants, and to defeat their object. I now set the people to work, and barricaded all the

doors and windows of the cottage we occupied in the best manner we could; and, collecting all our ammunition in the middle of the largest room, we determined to defend ourselves to the last, should they renew their attempts against us.

There was a low sod wall round the house which we found of great use, as no one could easily get over it without being seen and fired at. But our dogs afforded us a still greater protection, by attacking any of the Kaffres that approached the building; and I believe to them we principally owed our safety. All our people conducted themselves exceedingly well on this occasion, except one of my own servants, who behaved in a very dastardly manner.

On one occasion, when we expected to be attacked in the house, he collected all his clothes in a large bundle, and throwing it over his shoulder, swore that he would stay no longer with me, to be murdered by the Kaffres, and that he would rather take his chance of reaching the military post at Kaffre Drift.

Fearing that this would be the signal for a general desertion, I told him that "he was a

cowardly rascal, and that I was sure the rest of his comrades, who knew how to behave like men, would be glad to get rid of him; but that I was certain, at the same time, that the Kaffres would soon catch him on the way and serve him as he deserved."

The other four men, some of whom had already been meditating a flight, approved of what I said, and abused the cowardly fellow until he was ashamed of himself; he saw, besides, how small his chance was of making his escape from the Kaffres; so he threw down his bundle and returned sulkily to his post. We continued from time to time to be annoyed with a repetition of the attempts to set fire to the thatch, through a great part of the night; but, by firing in the direction of the dogs, we managed to keep our enemies off till it was near the morning.

The Kaffres had evidently expected that they would be able to scare us from the village by burning the cottages, when they might help themselves to whatever they wanted; but, being exceedingly afraid of fire-arms, and seeing that we kept our ground, they at last desisted

from further molestation. The people now declared that though they would not have it said they had deserted me, they would not remain another night at Fredericksburg unless I could get a party of soldiers from Kaffre Drift to assist us.

I accordingly set off on horseback for the military post some time before it was daylight, in order to escape the observation of the Kaffres, who might have intercepted me in some of the narrow paths between the bushes, and rode as hard as I could, till I reached the high woody banks of the Fish river, opposite to the military post.

In descending one of the grassy ridges towards the ford, I observed on an opposite hill a number of black things in motion which resembled men. It was not yet light enough to discern objects distinctly, and I fancied they were a party of Kaffres making for the jungle along the river, through which the road passes, where they could readily intercept me. As I saw that they would easily reach the woods before me, I hesitated whether to proceed. Dismounting from my horse, therefore,

I tied the bridle to a bush, and, lying down behind an anthill, reconnoitred the suspicious objects for some time as they descended the face of the hill.

At length they stopped and collected nearer together, as if for consultation. Suddenly, one of them uttered a hoarse cry like nothing human, and springing up in the air, turned round, when they all set off scampering up the steep bank like devils in the human form. I now perceived that what had occasioned my apprehensions was a troop of huge baboons, that frequent such situations in great numbers.

The captain commanding at Kaffre Drift readily consented to send a patrol with me to Fredericksburg for a couple of days to scour the bushes. The soldiers, who had recently arrived on the frontier, and who were totally ignorant of the habits of the Kaffres, were delighted with the opportunity of coming in contact with them, and showing that supposed superiority on which British troops always pride themselves.

After crossing the Fish river, they all pulled off their trousers, to lessen the fatigue of ascend-

ing the steep bank. The men were all fine healthy-looking fellows; but, for the first time, I observed the great inferiority of the English soldiers to the Scotch and Irish in the muscular strength of their legs. The English were much more fresh-coloured and handsome men—they were broader and better formed in the body and chest; but they were generally more fleshy than muscular, and had less appearance of vigour and hardiness.

The party consisted of about twenty men, chiefly English; but I observed four or five among them who were hard-featured and rougher in their faces. As we ascended through the woody path, they suffered less from fatigue, and appeared to enjoy the exercise, while the others looked fatigued and discontented. These men I soon found by their speech to be Scotch or Irish; and the comparative ease of their motions was readily accounted for by the muscularity and strength of their legs.

When we came within two or three miles of Fredericksburg, we halted and concealed ourselves in a bushy valley, in hopes of keeping

the Kaffres in ignorance of our motions; and as soon as it was getting dark, we proceeded to the village, where we found our people anxiously expecting our arrival. They had barricaded themselves closely in one of the smaller huts; had tied a bedstead across the door, and were sitting in the dark with their loaded muskets in their hands, ready to defend themselves against the Kaffres should they make any attempt to enter.

They told me that they had seen several Kaffres during the day on the hills above the settlement, and had no doubt that they intended to pay us another visit in the course of the night. We stationed a few of the soldiers in several of the houses, and patroled about in all directions; but our enemies, who had probably observed the arrival of the soldiers, did not make their appearance, as we expected. The following day we scoured the bushes along the banks of the Gualana, where we found the places where two fires had been kindled, which the Kaffres had attempted to conceal by covering them up with earth. We also discovered several of their tracks, and some of the snares

which they use to catch the antelopes in the woods.

Seeing it would be of no use to detain the patrol, as the Kaffres must have observed the soldiers, I sent the party back to their station on the Fish river, and determined to remain at Fredericksburg until my brother's return, when we should quit the settlement, if we got no further assistance from government.

In the mean time, I applied to the commandant of the frontier to have a small party stationed at the village for a few weeks. This however he refused, well knowing in what light our settlement was regarded by the governor, who had taken no pains to conceal his sentiments, though he had not thought proper to order our removal. This refusal was accompanied by a kind letter from the captain commanding the post at Kaffre Drift, offering to give us every assistance in removing our effects to a place of safety.

We continued a few days longer, however, keeping a constant watch by day and night, as it was necessary to be on our guard, lest the Kaffres should renew their hostilities. We

were all nearly exhausted with fatigue and want of sleep when my brother arrived at Fredericksburg. He had heard of our perilous situation at Grahamstown, and, concluding that I had given up all thoughts of remaining in the ceded territory, had brought two waggons to remove the remains of our property.

We soon packed up everything worth removing, and proceeded on our way to the ford of the Fish river at Trompetter's Drift. It may be easily conceived with what feelings of mortification we quitted this once-promising settlement, where we had every reason to expect the peculiar favour and patronage of the colonial government, and which was now sacrificed to the inconstancy of its measures. While our waggons were ascending the hill above the village, I rode back to take a last view of Fredericksburg; and finding a piece of chalk, I wrote in large letters on the walls of the principal house, "A Town to be let: for particulars apply at the Colonial Office."

Towards evening we arrived on the banks of the Fish river above Trompetter's Drift, and descended into the deep valley by a steep

woody road. Here we halted for the night close to the stream. We had seen among the low bushes on the sides of the hills several troops of elephants, which turned round and blew the dust in the air from their trunks as we passed to windward of them.

These animals possess a keen sense of smell, which enables them to perceive the approach of man even from the distance of a mile or two. Their hearing is also very acute—the slightest noise alarms them; so that the hunters are obliged to use great caution in approaching within gun-shot of them. Were their sight equally good, elephant-hunting would be much too hazardous to be followed either for profit or amusement, as they frequently give chase without previous provocation, when a person happens to come within their reach. Like other creatures, however, they have a natural fear of man, and though it operates irregularly, it generally induces them to avoid his haunts, particularly in the daytime; in most cases they may be scared away by shouting and cracking a waggon-whip. The greatest danger is when a person comes suddenly within a few

paces of them in the woods before they are aware of his approach, when they will often run furiously at him ; and in that case his only chance of escape is by plunging into the woods, or dodging them round a bush, so as to get out of the range of their scent.

To secure our cattle and sheep against the attacks of the wild animals, we instantly set to work to form a temporary "kraal," or enclosure of mimosa thorns. For this purpose, we took advantage of one of the round clumps of bush, which the Kaffres had hollowed out in the inside for making a garden, and we had only to stop up the gaps of the circle with thorns, leaving an opening for the entrance, before which we lighted a large fire of decayed trunks of trees. Drawing up our waggons near the fire for greater security, we killed a sheep and cooked a part of it for our supper.

After refreshing ourselves, we loaded our guns and lay down to sleep in our blankets, some in the waggons, and the rest on the ground, one keeping watch to prevent the fire from going out, which would have exposed us to danger from the elephants, which generally

come down in the night-time to drink and enjoy themselves in the water. Before going to sleep, we employed one of the Hottentots in cracking the waggon-whip from time to time, to acquaint them with our situation, and that their favourite resort was preoccupied.

We had not lain down half an hour when we heard a troop of these animals descending through the bushes, breaking the branches of the trees that came in their way, and making the valley echo with their screams. They came to the opposite bank of the river before they were aware of our being near them, and it was some minutes before we could drive them away by firing at them and shouting.

We had scarcely got rid of these unpleasant visitors, when our sleep was again disturbed by the roaring of a lion, whose tremendous voice was re-echoed and multiplied among the wild ravines along the banks of the river. This was succeeded by the howls of several hyenas, and the panting of the leopards, as they prowled about among the bushes. In a few hours most of these animals had quitted the valley to wander over the open country in search of prey,

and we were only disturbed by a solitary leopard that had scented our sheep, and continued to hover round the "kraal," watching his opportunity to pounce upon one of them when we might be off our guard.

The moon afforded us a little light, and as I could not sleep I employed myself in guarding the sheep, until I thought that the cunning animal had taken his departure. Rolling my blanket round me, I lay down near the fire in hope of procuring a short nap before the day dawned. I was just falling asleep, when I was awakened by the sheep making a sudden rush over us, followed by some wild animal which bounded over me in pursuit of them.

I jumped up, and seizing a piece of wood from the half-extinguished fire, nearly felled one of our people, who had got on his hands and knees covered with his blanket, and whom in the darkness I mistook for the intruder in the act of devouring a sheep. The shout I uttered at the same time, or the lighted stick, had the effect of scaring away the animal, and we soon collected our flock together, and again secured them in the "kraal," without sustain-

ing any loss. After allowing our cattle to graze for a couple of hours in the morning, we yoked in our oxen and proceeded on our journey.

The road from Trompetter's Drift to Grahamstown passes through a rocky and arid country, which affords tolerable pasturage for sheep, but the larger cattle were in low condition. The mountains near Grahamstown form the boundary between two different kinds of country, all the lands to the northward of them for several miles being arid, while the tract of country extending from the mountains towards the sea is verdant and productive, but better adapted for cattle and horses than for sheep.

We only waited for a day in Grahamstown to visit our friends before proceeding to join my eldest brother near the mouth of the Bosjesman's river. We crossed the mountains behind it by a dangerous and rugged road, which the government have taken little pains in improving, though it communicates with the more fertile parts of the district of Albany, whence the troops and the inhabitants of the

town receive the greater part of their supplies. To avoid this execrable road, the farmers are compelled to make a circuit of several miles in bringing their produce to market, which of course tends to enhance the prices considerably.

Were the colonial government to employ a portion of the troops stationed on the frontier in improving a road of so much consequence to the farmers, it would materially increase competition, and thus produce a saving in their expenditure, which would more than compensate the expense incurred.

The worst part of this road is on the south side of the mountains, where it descends in a direct line from the summit to the bottom of a deep ravine, whence it again ascends another mountain of inferior height by a winding course, and, after skirting its base for a few miles, enters an elevated plain intersected with deep woody ravines, with small rivulets running through them.

After crossing the mountains, we pursued our journey along a high, level tract of country, towards " Jager's Drift," or Hunter's Ford,

which is about eight miles from the mouth of the Bosjesman's river, where we arrived in the evening. The country improved in verdure as we approached the coast, and the cattle were in better condition, though the grass was not of the most nutritive quality. As we descended the high hills which environ the river, on either side we had a fine view of the romantic and wild scenery along its banks. The stream winds its way through level plains covered with soft nutritive pasturage, and sprinkled here and there with clumps of small wood and bushes. The steep hills on both sides of the valley were thickly covered with low wood and bushes, overtopped by tall euphorbia growing among the rocks.

About half a mile above the ford, a perpendicular rock, composed of horizontal strata of red sandstone, rose to the height of four or five hundred feet above the river, which washed its base; and higher up we observed a succession of stupendous precipices, where the strata appeared in all positions, from horizontal to perpendicular. What struck me as particularly remarkable was, that one of these precipices, where

the strata were horizontal, was covered at the summit by a thin layer of rocks, also of sandstone, but of a different colour where the strata were nearly perpendicular. If the sandstone strata were originally formed in a horizontal position, as is generally supposed by geologists, it is difficult to account for this appearance. The various inclinations of the principal strata may, however, be easily explained by supposing that the river had in the course of ages gradually undermined the land in its way to the sea, and, by the falling in of the upper strata of sandstone, produced the confusion which we now witnessed, and lowered the valley to its present depth below the general level of the country in its neighbourhood. The action of the sea, which still flows up to the ford, and alluvial deposits from the occasional floodings of the river, would soon fill up the hollows and reduce the valley to an even surface.

As I have already stated, it appears highly probable, if not certain, that the sea has gradually receded from the land on this side of the colony, or rather that the land has been gradually elevated above its former level from

causes which I shall have occasion in the sequel to show are still in active operation along the coast.

After crossing "Jager's Drift," we pursued our journey along a road excavated in the face of a steep woody bank on the margin of the river, and which was so narrow in some places that any mismanagement would have precipitated our waggons into the water. The trees above us supported huge fragments of rock that had been detached from the precipices, and seemed ready to break loose from their uncertain hold, and crush us to atoms in their course.

We at length emerged from the bushes near a house occupied by a Dutch farmer and his sons, and a horde of Hottentots, of all ages and complexions, many of them almost in a state of nudity. Their cattle and sheep were fat and thriving: they had cultivated several acres of land on a rising ground, where their crops were secure from the occasional floodings of the river, which occur every four or five years. It was with extreme toil that we ascended the steep and rugged bank on the western side of

the river, by a rocky path cut through the woods.

We had now attained the general level of the country, and in a couple of hours arrived at a little spring, where my eldest brother had erected a temporary shelter with long poles fixed in the ground in the form of the roof of a house, and covered over with long reeds. Another habitation of the same description was in progress for the use of his servants. Here we fixed our abode for the present, and renewed our applications to the governor to be compensated for our losses and disappointments at the ill-fated settlement at Fredericksburg.

CHAPTER VIII.

Fine tract of Country. — District of Uitenhage. — Domestic Arrangements. — Temporary Habitations. — Variety of Wild Animals. — Nocturnal Visitations. — Wood Antelopes. — Flesh of the Quagga. — Grants of Land to the Author and his Brother. —Journey through the Forest.— The Onder Bosjesman's River. — Wild Pigs.— Elands.— Fertile Soil.— Death of a Child. — Lines to her Memory. — Visit to a Dutch Farmer. — Limited Accommodations.— Scenery of the Coast of Algoa Bay. — Erection of a Dwelling.

THE country in which my eldest brother had now fixed his residence was exceedingly beautiful and fertile. With the exception of the ceded territory which we had just left, we had seen nothing as yet to compare with it in point of verdure and productiveness; and for agricultural purposes I am inclined to think it superior to any other part of the southern coast of the colony. The sea-coast of the district of Albany, to the eastward of the Bosjesman's

river, is nearly equal to it in point of verdure; but the soil is not by any means so rich.

This fine tract of country extends for about thirty miles along the sea from the river just mentioned to the Sunday river, and varies from six to ten miles in breadth. At a greater distance from the sea, the soil becomes drier and poorer, and the grass suffers more from the summer droughts. About half a mile from my brother's house, an extensive forest of fine large timber commences, and entirely covers a range of high hills which runs parallel to the coast for upwards of twenty miles. This particular division of the district of Uitenhage is called the "Onder Bosjesman's river."

In the spot we now occupied, a little spring trickled along a pretty valley between two gently swelling hills, ornamented with clumps of small trees and bushes, and sprinkled lightly here and there with graceful mimosas. Over the tops of the grassy hills appeared an extensive range of much higher hills, entirely covered with wood.

As soon as my brother had housed his people, he constructed an earthen dam across the little

rivulet near his house to enable his cattle and sheep to drink with greater facility. My naval brother and I, as we expected to remain here for some months, immediately set about constructing a similar habitation at a little distance. We accordingly selected a beautiful spot farther down the valley, where the little rivulet entered the woods. In a few days we got our rude huts covered in, and began to plough as much ground as we required to supply us with Indian corn and pumpkins. These temporary habitations are called by the Dutch colonists "harte-beest" huts, as they are in the habit of constructing them as a shelter when they are far from home, employed in hunting the "harte-beest" antelope, which at this time abounded near the Bosjesman's river.

There are a great variety of wild animals in this part of the country. The extensive forest near us abounded with elephants and buffaloes, which are generally found in herds; but they are seldom seen on the plains in the day-time, as they are much hunted by the Dutch and Hottentots. Sometimes, in the morning, we found the tracks of elephants within a few

paces of our flimsy huts, which they might have overturned with their tusks with perfect ease were it not for our dogs, which generally scared them away by their barking. Our hut was so near the edge of the forest that we were frequently exposed to these nocturnal visitations: we had often to get up in the night to defend ourselves with our guns.

We sometimes saw two or three wild pigs early in the morning, or in moonlight nights, tearing up the ground in search of roots, on the margin of the forest; but they were so exceedingly shy that I rarely could get within shot of them.

The woods also abound with large wood-antelopes, and an elegant little antelope not more than a foot in height, called the "blaawe bock," or blue buck. On the plains we generally saw troops of quaggas, which are often hunted by the Dutch for their skins, of which they make large bags to hold their grain, and by the Hottentots, who are often fond of their flesh.

Being one morning at the house of a neighbouring farmer, who had just shot one of these

animals, I requested that he would have a piece of the flesh cooked for my breakfast. His "frow" expressed some disgust at my proposal, but ordered a small bit to be grilled, with butter and pepper. I did not find it at all unpalatable, and certainly it was better than horse-flesh, to which I had been treated in the hospital at Bergen-op-Zoom in 1814, when lying wounded there, after the unfortunate failure of that well-planned attack.

A fine rivulet ran along the base of the wooded hills in our neighbourhood, and a number of Dutch farmers had built their houses on its banks, or near the outskirts of the forest. The soil in most of these situations is so exceedingly fertile, that though they have cultivated the same ground for ten or fifteen years without manure, they still calculate on reaping from forty to sixty returns of wheat, and yet the land does not seem to deteriorate.

This part of the district is so well supplied with rain or heavy dews, that the crops never suffer materially from drought. There is a narrow strip of open country, extending for several miles between the woody hills and the

sea, which is still more fertile and beautiful. Here a considerable extent of land had been reserved by government, for which the neighbouring farmers had often applied in vain.

After several ineffectual memorials, the governor at length, a short time before the arrival of the commissioners of inquiry, consented to grant my brother D—— and me farms in this neighbourhood, not in compensation for our losses at Fredericksburg, but as an acknowledgment of the service my elder brother had done in bringing out two hundred labourers and artisans to the colony. The landdrost of Uitenhage was ordered to have the reserved land measured for us by the land-surveyor of the district.

My brother and I therefore set off one morning on horseback to examine our new grants. After riding about fifteen miles along the north side of the forest, we came to a farmhouse near a wild ravine, through which a rivulet winds its way towards the coast. As we were quite ignorant of our road through the forest, we applied to the farmer for assistance. He was a hale old man of sixty years of age, and

very civil until we told him that we were to have farms in the tract of land reserved by government, which excited his jealousy exceedingly, as he had several times made unsuccessful applications for a grant of land for his sons in the same situation.

He tried all he could to dissuade us from pursuing our journey, telling us that we should be killed by the elephants, which swarmed in the woods along the stream. The place we were going to, he told us, was the "eye of the elephant's nest;" and that the road was so bad, that "a baboon could hardly keep its feet in travelling along it." Finding that we were determined to grope our way through the forest, he pointed out to us where we should descend into the ravine; but, though we offered to pay him handsomely, we could not prevail on him to spare us one of his Hottentots as a guide.

We fortunately pursued the right direction, and descended from a beautiful verdant plain at the edge of the forest into a deep chasm which divided the high range of hills towards the sea. We got into a labyrinth of elephant-paths, covered with the fresh tracks of these animals,

and followed the winding course of the river as well as we could, crossing it in a hundred places —sometimes dragging our horses through the tangled mazes of the jungle, or scrambling along the face of a rocky precipice. In some places we found a little grassy peninsula clear of wood, where we could see about us; but in general we had nothing to guide us in our way but the course of the stream, the banks of which were thickly covered with tall trees and bushes with hooked thorns, which are here expressively denominated "wagteen bityes," or "stop a littles."

At length, after a toilsome journey of six miles, in which we had not encountered any of the elephants, we suddenly emerged from the forest into a level plain, about two miles long and half a mile broad, covered with the most luxuriant herbage. On either side of this beautiful glen rose steep grassy hills five or six hundred feet in height, having their summits partially covered by the edge of the forest. Numerous steep woody ravines descended into the plain on either side; and its opening towards the sea being obstructed by high sand-hills, the

rivulet, having no outlet, had formed a small lake at the bottom of the valley. Surrounded on all sides by high hills and woods, a more wild and sequestered spot could not be conceived.

The ground was everywhere torn up by the elephants and wild pigs. In wading through the long grass we started three of the latter, which instantly made off for the woods at full speed. In one of the little ravines we found nine elands quietly grazing on the side of a steep hill. This is one of the largest and tamest species of the antelope. They are as high as a cow, with long straight horns, and elegantly formed in their limbs; but they have now become exceedingly scarce.

I had never before met with any soil bearing such indisputable tokens of fertility as that of the Kaba, as this alluvial valley is called by the Hottentots and Dutch. The level bottom was everywhere covered over with a rich black vegetable mould, from one to three feet in thickness, containing land and sea shells in considerable quantities.

The sides of the hills were adorned by long

grass to their very tops, and here and there rocks of soft limestone showed themselves through the soil. We observed several deep ruts resembling waggon-tracks, occasioned by the elephants sliding down the hills where it is too steep for them to keep their feet. When these animals come to a place of this kind, they sit down on their haunches, and, supporting themselves by their fore-legs, allow themselves to descend without any effort, leaving two deep ruts behind them. Highly delighted with the appearance of this rich but lonely spot, we returned through the wood the same way we came, guiding ourselves by the tracks of our horses.

We were obliged to remain some months longer on my elder brother's farm, as we could not proceed to our new grants until they had been measured by the land-surveyor of the district. During this interval, he was busily engaged in erecting a substantial brick house, being the first of the kind that had been built in this part of the district, which for several years had not been considered quite secure from the attacks of the Kaffres.

While he still inhabited his reed-hut he had the misfortune to lose one of his children, a beautiful little girl, to whom we were all much attached. As there were no churches or church-yards in this part of the colony, her grave was dug, according to the custom of the farmers, within a few hundred yards of the dwelling, under the branches of a small milk-wood tree. Two Dutch farmers, who happened to stop at the house, attended the funeral; but when the rest uncovered their heads, as the little coffin was lowered into the grave, they surlily kept on their hats, with a smile of contempt at the token of respect we paid to the remains of the innocent child, which only a few days before had been climbing on our knees with her eyes beaming with health and kindness.

My brother D—— penned the following lines to her memory:—

Sleep, smiling cherub, soundly sleep!
Ah! when we miss thy smiles to-morrow,
'Twere vain—'twere selfish *then* to weep;
'Tis we, not thou, who wake to sorrow!

Sad was thy doom, yet kindly given:
Thy light, unclouded, playful day,
Like the pure dew exhaled to heaven,
Was soon ordain'd to pass away!

The many anxious cares of life—
  Its hopes, its fears, its glittering toys—
To thee were yet unknown: nor strife
  Nor passion marr'd thy cherub joys.

We'll dig thy grave where the tender gleam
  Of the orient sun reposes:
It shall not parch in the midday beam,
  For we'll shadow it o'er with roses.

The dewdrop late shall linger there,
  And the lark build free from danger:
No evil thing may breathe that air,
  For thy breast to guile was a stranger.

The midnight wolf shall check his howl
  As he glides by thy hallow'd dwelling;
The twilight bat and the mournful owl
  Shall shun that verdant swelling.

Oh! nothing unholy can thee molest;
  For a sentinel fairy hovers
Around thee to guard the pure earth on thy breast,
  And the innocent one it covers.

Soon shall thy guardian milk-wood tree,
  Whose boughs are yet unbending,
Fling them with fondness over thee—
  Kind shade and shelter lending.

When soothing time hath dried *our* tears,
  Shall its dewy leaves be weeping,
And its hoary stem, in future years,
  Bend over Cicie sleeping.

The land granted jointly to my brother D— and me, consisted of about five thousand acres, in two lots, included between the forest and the sea-coast. One of these places, which I have described, had a constant stream of water, taking its rise in the woods. The other, though equally beautiful and fertile, was only supplied with water by a natural pond formed by the rains, which was subject to be dried up in the course of the summer. We therefore determined to fix our residence at the former, the name of which we altered from 'Kaba to Hoy, after our native island in Orkney.

Having completed my arrangements for moving, I set off with my waggon and cattle to our new habitation, without waiting for my brother D——, who was on a visit to some friends in the neighbouring district of Albany. We had only two servants, of the soldiers of the Royal African Corps, who remained in our employ after the failure of the settlement at Fredericksburg. These I took along with me to erect temporary huts to shelter us till we could build houses of a more comfortable description, and procure Hottentots, who are more useful

on a farm than Europeans, from their being accustomed to the management of cattle.

There being no direct road for a waggon, we were obliged to make a circuit of some miles to a place where several of my elder brother's people were employed in sawing timber for the house he was erecting, as well as for sale, in Grahamstown. A narrow road had been opened through the forest by a Dutch settler, who inhabited the next farm to the one we were to occupy, and who had constructed a rude hut on the opposite side of the woods.

We descended through a narrow strip of wood into an extensive and romantic savanna, covered with rich pasturage, and surrounded by high hills partially clad with tall forest trees. After passing over this beautiful spot, we entered the forest, which was about two miles broad in this place, and with some difficulty reached the farmer's house before dark, where we rested for the night.

This Dutchman, who was a lazy, good-natured man, and conceived bodily exertion to be one of the greatest evils to which human nature could be subjected, managed to vegetate

on the produce of his cattle, and some pumpkins, and Indian corn. His house, in which he had lived for several years, consisted only of a single room, constructed of rough outside planks, with the bark on, and the crevices stopped up with mud, clay, &c. One end had a large chimney and was used for a kitchen, where his house servants slept at night, and the other extremity was occupied by himself and his family.

Notwithstanding the very limited accommodation his house afforded, he received me very kindly, and saved me the pain of any apology for what his habitation wanted in point of comfort. This man proved afterwards to be a kind and obliging neighbour, ready to assist me whenever it was in his power, and not greedy and overreaching, as I found most of his countrymen, whenever I had occasion to purchase anything of him.

The inside of the rafters of the house was hung round with strips of beef, slightly salted, which the Dutch generally preserve in this manner, as they have no idea that it can be kept in pickle without spoiling. After making

a hearty supper of boiled beef and pumpkins, succeeded by a large bowl of sweet milk and Indian corn, we retired to rest. I was at first exceedingly puzzled how the proprietor could accommodate us with beds, as the party consisted of himself and his three daughters, a newly-married brother and his wife, besides two men on a visit, and myself.

This difficulty, however, was soon obviated. A quantity of bedding was brought from a corner of the house, where it was lying in a heap, covered by a large mat made of long rushes sewed together, and distributed among four empty bedsteads, covered with leather thongs, that were standing in different parts of the room. The beds destined for the married couple and the females were fenced round with mats set on their edges, and the others were left open.

Our host and his youngest daughter occupied one bed,—another was occupied by his other two daughters,—the third by the newly married couple,—and the fourth, which was within a few feet of the last-mentioned, by the two visiters and myself.

But here a considerable difficulty occurred, for the padded blanket which was to cover us was found to be too narrow for the purpose, and the night was very cold, it being the month of July. We were, therefore, obliged to turn our only covering the wrong way, so that we were unprotected below the knees. Though my bed-fellows insisted on my taking the middle place, my feet were so cold that I could not sleep for the greater part of the night, and I was forced to listen to a full chorus of snorers.

I was awakened an hour before daylight in the morning, by the sound of a huge churn wrought with a pump-handle, by two half-naked Hottentot women. As the Dutch only divest themselves of a part of their upper garments when they retire to rest, we felt no unnecessary reluctance to dressing ourselves before the females of the family, who were already seated preparing coffee, at a little table near a square opening in the wall of the hut which answered the purpose of a window, and was closed at night by a shutter on the outside.

This farmer's estate was situated in a similar valley to our land, from which it was divided by a steep ridge of high hills thickly covered with wood. We were, therefore, obliged to descend to the bottom of the valley near the sea, and, ascending a low ridge of what had originally been sandhills, but were now covered with rich soil and long grass, we pursued our journey round the corner of the wooded hills to Hoy. A parallel range of sandhills appeared on our right; on the side towards the land, these were covered with low jungle, brushwood, and creeping plants, which decaying in process of time, create a soil over the surface of the calcareous sand, and are succeeded by luxuriant herbage.

We had an extensive prospect from the road we were travelling, for more than sixty miles along the coast of Algoa Bay, which was defended from the ocean by an unbroken barrier of high sandhills, lashed by an unceasing surf that, with the exception of the landing-place at Port Elizabeth, near the western extremity, prevents all access to the sea. The eternal roar of the breakers occasions a feeling of melan-

choly in the mind, and, surrounded as we were on the land-side by the woods, it is some time before the beauty of the scenery compensates for an almost overwhelming sense of solitude and seclusion from the rest of mankind.

I was, however, delighted with the prospect of at last finding a fixed abode after my involuntary wanderings. There is also an excitement, combined with a feeling of usefulness, in occupying a portion of the surface of the earth for the first time that it has been rendered available to the wants of civilized men, which makes us think lightly of the temporary inconveniences attending a new settlement.

I was not long in selecting a site for my house. Where the little stream emerged from the deep woody ravine at the head of the valley, it took a turn and flowed round the base of a steep hill, crowned with a perpendicular crag of limestone; and here the banks being level, it diffused itself over several acres of rich alluvial ground covered with long rushes. At the base of the hill, there stood a tall yellow-wood tree with spreading branches, close to

which I drew up my waggon, and, turning the oxen loose to graze, I immediately set to work with my two servants, to cut a number of limber-poles in the neighbouring forest, which we planted in the ground in a circle, and bending the tops over, we tied them together with thongs cut from a raw bullock's hide which we had brought along with us for the purpose. We then tied a number of thin twigs in circles at equal distances across the poles to the top of the hut, which in form resembled a bee-hive.

Before night, we got the frame of our domicile finished, and waded into the water with our sickles to cut rushes to cover it in. This, however, took more time than I expected, and we were obliged to desist for the night, to procure firewood to cook our supper. It had rained hard the whole day, and our waggon having no covering, our only shelter was under the branches of the yellow-wood tree. Here we kindled a large fire, and, after we had finished our meal, rolled ourselves in our blankets and lay down to sleep, having previously loaded our guns and placed them in the inside of

the trunk, which had been hollowed out by age, in case of being disturbed by the elephants.

These animals generally shun the habitations of man, but this being the only spot where they can get water for several miles, they resort to it in great numbers in the night-time. We were two or three times aroused by the barking of our dogs, and heard the loud screams of these dangerous creatures, and the breaking of the branches as they descended through the woods to the stream ; but we shouted and fired our guns to scare them away.

CHAPTER IX.

Arrival of the Author's Brother.—Excursion into the Forest. —Narrow Escape from a Troop of Elephants.—Accident to the Dwelling.—The damage repaired.—Hunting the Leopard.—Death of the Animal.—Overflow of the River. —A comfortless Night.—Marriage of the Author's Brother.—Trade to Port Frances.—Farming Occupations.—Difficulties for the Settler.—A Medical Lady.—Quarrels among the Hottentot and European Servants.—Field-Cornets, or Magistrates.—Robbery.—The Offender forgiven. —A Human Skull.—Three Kaffres killed.

During the following day, we got our hut thatched over with green rushes, and planted several strong posts in the ground, to which we tied our milch cows. My brother D—— now joined me, accompanied by a friend, who wished to see our new settlement.

One evening, while they were riding round the farm, I took one of my servants along with me and went into the woods, in hope of shoot-

ing a bush-buck, as our provisions were nearly exhausted. We ascended a steep grassy ridge near the sea, and proceeded through the forest for two or three miles, following a broad elephants' path, where we saw several of their fresh tracks, but without being able to get within shot of any of the game we were in search of.

As we were returning home, we missed our way by following the elephants' path too far, which led us past an open savanna on the top of the hill above the farm, where we should have emerged from the forest. While we were deliberating how we should proceed, we suddenly heard a thundering noise, and the branches of the trees breaking with reports like a running fire of musketry. Having only a light double-barreled gun in my hand, and my companion's firelock being only loaded with shot, we were in no condition for encountering a troop of elephants.

The sun had already set, at which period these animals are all on the move, and are much bolder than at other times. We had therefore nothing for it, but to make for the edge of the woods as fast as we could, where we hoped to

make our escape. We succeeded in reaching the grass, and, calling to my man to follow me, I turned off at right angles along the margin of the forest to get out of their scent, for the wind was blowing directly towards them. After we had run about a hundred yards, we stopped to draw breath, and to listen for our pursuers; but hearing nothing, we concluded that on losing their scent, they had turned off in a different direction.

Thinking that the danger was past, Darby Lannigan, whose name is an index to his country, broke out into an extravagant fit of exultation, and paid himself and me a hundred compliments on our presence of mind, swearing by the "holy contingent"—a military oath—that "we had done them finely." Darby's eulogiums were soon interrupted, for as we were crossing the little plain, and had come opposite to the point where we had quitted the wood, five elephants issued from it, and gave chase to us.

I succeeded in gaining a round clump of bush in the middle of the plain, and concealing myself behind it, watched the motions of our

pursuers with both barrels of my gun cocked. Poor Darby, however, being short in the legs, was soon exhausted with his exertions, and fell down in the long grass, where he had the prudence to lie without motion.

The elephants passed within a few yards of him without perceiving him, and coming within thirty yards of the bush where I had taken shelter, stood still for several minutes, during which time my sensations were far from being enviable after the hair-breadth escape I had formerly had from them. I was afraid to fire, for, in the event of their not being scared away, my retreat would be discovered. Fortunately the wind had fallen, and they lost scent of me, and at last returned to the woods.

I now discerned Darby's curly head slowly rising above the long grass and looking round warily to see if the coast was clear. His face looked rather pale with his recent tribulation. At last he got sight of me, and knowing by the signal I made him that the danger was past, his round visage immediately brightened up, and sitting upright, he slapped his hands together and shouted to me, "By the Holy! sir,

we've done them fairly agin." As we were descending into the valley, he turned round to me with a knowing look and said—"We'll better say nothing about this business to the Dutchmen, or they'll say we were afraid."

We reached home as it was getting dark, when, before I had time to relate our adventure, my brother and his friend, who came to meet us, acquainted me with an awkward accident that had occurred in our absence. The cattle had taken into their heads to devour the green rushes that covered the walls of our hut, leaving nothing but the bare poles and the roof. My brother was eloquent on my want of foresight in neglecting to secure it by fencing it round with mimosas, of which there were plenty close at hand. He certainly had the advantage of experience to justify his censures; but I believe few people could have anticipated such an extraordinary occurrence as the walls of a house being eaten up by a herd of cattle who had plenty of grass to satisfy their hunger through the day. It was no doubt a piece of epicurism in the animals, something like that of the Chinese eating birds'-nests.

To make the best of circumstances, we patched up the hut with mats and rushes to keep out the wind, and kindling a large fire, passed the night as comfortably as we could. The following day, after repairing the damage done to our habitation, we cut down a number of thorn-bushes to form a "kraal" for our cattle at night. My brother having brought a tent with him, we pitched it on the opposite side of the valley, where we now determined to erect a more comfortable house, and I removed my quarters to it, leaving my hut to be occupied by our servants.

We had not been long here, before we began to be annoyed with nightly visits from a leopard, which carried off two of our calves. One morning, at the first dawn of day, taking advantage of the dew which still lay on the grass to discover his retreat, we took our guns and dogs, and went into the forest in pursuit of him. The dogs instantly got scent of the animal, and drove him up a tree, from which he soon descended and escaped our search for a long time; but at last the dogs again reco-

vered the track, and drove him to seek his safety in another tree.

We were all in such a hurry to have the first shot, that we ran on pell-mell through the wood; but, suspecting that my priming was damp from the late rains, I stopped a moment and replaced it with dry powder, without saying a word to my companions. In the mean time, they had got a little a-head of me, when the gun of one of our people went off by accident. We had now discovered the leopard lying along one of the branches of the tree, looking at us with a most ferocious expression of countenance.

My brother, without waiting for me, levelled his gun at him, but it missed fire. The animal still kept his place without motion, when, taking a deliberate aim over the shoulder of one of our people, I shot him through the body, just behind the fore legs. He fell to the ground with a savage growl, and my brother running up to him while he lay on his back, discharged a pistol through his head.

D—— was not a little mortified in losing

the honour of giving him the first shot, and though he had the joke against me when my cattle devoured the walls of my hut, he found that foresight will not guard against every contingency. After destroying our troublesome visiter, the dogs brought us to a tree where we found the mangled remains of one of our calves suspended among the highest branches, where he had carried them to be out of the reach of the hyenas.

While we were still living in our tent, we were visited by a dreadful storm of wind, accompanied by such a torrent of rain as had not been known in the colony for many years. It increased towards night to such a degree, that though we were sheltered under the edge of the woods, it was as much as three of our people could do to support the pole of our tent. We heard the aged trees rending in the depths of the forest with the violence of the blast; and between the gusts of wind our ears were saluted with the affrighted shrieks of the elephants.

At length the stream, which had been gradually swelling with the torrents which de-

scended from the deep ravines in the wood, broke over its level banks and laid the upper end of the valley under water. We now wished that we had chosen a higher situation for our tent; but it was too late to think of removing, for the night was pitchy dark, and we were surrounded by lower grounds, where the water was running in deep channels. The water continued to rise in our tent, bringing with it the straw, &c. from our cattle "kraal," which was close to us, until it nearly covered the bedstead on which I had been lying. As may be supposed, we passed a most uncomfortable and anxious night. But fortunately the rain abated and the torrent did not increase in height.

The first dawn of morning discovered to us that the lower part of the valley, where there was no outlet for the water, was covered by a lake a mile and a half in length, and several broad streams still continued running into the lake from the banks of the river. The dark clouds had passed on, and we could see them still hanging in black masses over the hills near Grahamstown. Had the torrent continued

much longer, we must all have been swept away. With great difficulty we managed to carry our effects to a higher situation, where we thought they would be secure for the future.

The effects of this flood were felt all over the frontiers of the colony. Several houses at Grahamstown were swept away by the swelling of the rivulet, and a few lives were lost in other places. Many of the British settlers in Albany, who had chosen low situations on the banks of the streams for their residence, had their houses and gardens utterly destroyed, and even the soil carried away where it had been broken by the spade or plough.

My brother and I continued to live very contentedly together for several weeks after our house was finished; but his visits to the district of Albany became gradually longer and more frequent, so that at last he never remained with me above a week at a time, always appearing fidgety and discontented. The mystery was at length removed by his getting married to an accomplished young lady, the daughter of

one of the principal British settlers. Much as I rejoiced in the happy change in his circumstances, the loss of his society was a severe privation to me, as I had no English neighbour within twenty miles, and the Dutch were far too ignorant to be agreeable companions.

My brother's talents and intelligence soon after attracted the attention of the Commissioners of Inquiry, who were still in the colony, and led to his being appointed resident magistrate at Port Frances, at the mouth of the Kowie River, where his knowledge of naval matters had been instrumental in opening that outlet for the produce of the district of Albany.

The coasting trade to Port Frances was carried on for some time by vessels belonging to Government; but the shallowness of the water over the bar which obstructed the entrance to the river requiring vessels of very small tonnage, so many of them were lost in the gales of wind in this stormy latitude, that the establishment was at last broken up. D—— gave so much satisfaction while he held the situation

of resident at Port Frances, that he was afterwards promoted to be clerk of the peace at Grahamstown.

I was now left to find amusement in my farming occupations and the various field-sports of the country. The rude independence I enjoyed, and the proud consciousness of being able to overcome difficulties which at first appeared to be insurmountable, soon reconciled me to the solitary life I led.

I had procured a couple of Hottentots with considerable difficulty from the missionary station called Theopolis, in Albany. I was particularly unfortunate in these individuals; for one of them was the most unmanageable fellow I ever met with, and the other was in a most deplorable state of health, so much so as shortly to become incapable of work. The latter had been using some of the Hottentot remedies for his complaint; but not being able to procure the best kinds, he became worse and worse, until I was obliged to send him away to Grahamstown to get cured.

One day, on calling at the house of my Dutch neighbour, whom I have already men-

tioned, I happened to complain of the difficulty of procuring servants. My honest landlord immediately inquired, "Where is Klaas the Hottentot you had the other day?" I told him the cause of my sending him away. A married female relative who was present—a very modest-looking young woman—asked me if he had got the "sickness."

On replying in the affirmative, "Ach! Mynheer M——," said she, "if you had told me of that before, I would have cured him for you. Look now, my father had a slave, who was so ill that nobody would have believed that he could be cured in this world: but my father took two or three handfuls of "wilde dacha," (a kind of wild hemp which grows in rich ground near the coast,) and boiled it in a pan, and made the slave drink a cupful every day for two or three weeks; and he made him as well again as he ever was in his life. She detailed many minute particulars regarding the state of the patient during his sickness. I thanked her for her kind offer, and told her that should another of my servants fall ill, I should certainly avail myself of her medical skill.

My other Hottentot (Speulman) was an excellent servant as far as work went, but of such a ferocious and quarrelsome disposition, particularly when he got drunk, that few nights passed during which I had not to get up to quiet the disturbances he raised in the adjoining hut where he lived. Unfortunately, the woods abounded with honey through the greater part of the year, which furnished the material for making the kind of beer I have already described. Whenever Speulman could procure a supply of this intoxicating beverage, all was confusion and uproar from midnight till near the morning. On these occasions, he constantly quarrelled with every one in the hut, and generally beat his wife in the most cruel manner, so that frequently she had to keep her bed for a week at a time.

It seldom answers with the farmer to have European and Hottentot servants together, as the former expect to be treated in a different manner, and think they have a right to tyrannise over the latter, which I would never permit them to do. The worst of it was, that my white servants had no objection to share the

honey-beer of the Hottentots, and to be on the most familiar terms with them when it suited their purpose.

One Sunday, my two English servants had been enjoying themselves in the Hottentots' hut, and sharing their beer, when one of them took some improper liberty with Speulman's daughter. The Hottentot, who was a strong fellow and half-mad with drinking, instantly resented the breach of hospitality, and a desperate battle ensued between them, the other Englishman taking his comrade's part.

According to the custom of the Hottentots, Speulman immediately stripped himself stark naked to prevent his adversaries from getting hold of him, and, seizing a stick, he showed great dexterity in defending himself against his two assailants, who were exceedingly intoxicated. Seeing from my window how matters stood between the combatants, and that Speulman had the advantage, I would not interfere, in hopes of the aggressors receiving their merited punishment, until one of them seized a porcupine spear, and flung it at the Hottentot with such force that it would have run him

through the body, had he not fortunately evaded the stroke.

I now thought it high time to prevent more serious consequences, and running up to the Hottentot, who had got possession of the dangerous weapon and was about to return the compliment on his adversary, I wrested it from him, and ordered him to retire to his hut. I then told the two offenders that I was exceedingly sorry they had not been punished more severely by the Hottentot for their shameful conduct, and that if they attempted to molest him further I should not scruple to use the weapon in my hand against them.

They went off in high dudgeon, swearing they would not remain longer in my service after my taking a Hottentot's part against them. I was very glad to get rid of them, for I had now seen quite enough of the general conduct of European servants to give the preference to Hottentots, with all their faults.

Speulman's vengeance, however, was not yet half satisfied; for, as soon as I had retired into my house, he went after them, and quickly returned with a wound from a sharp-pointed

knife in one of his arms, which one of the men had given him.

I have related this disgraceful scene to show the condition of society in this part of the colony, and the evils resulting from a mixture of different complexions, where the laws cannot easily be executed on account of the scattered state of the population. It is particularly unfortunate for this colony, that while the masters have little control over their servants from the scarcity of labour, its limited resources will not admit of that increase in the number of the country magistrates which this peculiar state of society requires. Thus, when crimes are committed at any considerable distance from the seat of magistracy, they generally pass unpunished. This evil has been partially remedied in the district of Albany, by the appointment of justices of the peace; but, in the Dutch districts, no persons of sufficient intelligence and impartiality can be found to fill this useful office.

In the district of Uitenhage, where I resided at this time, there were only inferior magistrates, called field-cornets, who were formerly

empowered to inflict a certain degree of corporal punishment on refractory slaves or Hottentots at their own discretion, on complaint being made by the master. The nearest field-cornet to my place was at the distance of eight miles.

One day, on returning from a visit to Grahamstown, I found my Hottentots all in a state of intoxication, and when I entered my house I perceived that two small barrels, containing wine and brandy, had been tapped, and a considerable quantity of their contents abstracted. I at last discovered from some of the people that Speulman had forced his way through one of the windows, and committed the robbery.

I determined to have him punished, and set off on horseback next morning to bring the field-cornet. I was obliged to make a circuit of several miles to prevent suspicion; for, had the offender guessed the object of my journey, he would have been on his guard and made his escape in the forest. I found the field-cornet extremely unwilling to perform his duty, having a malady in one of his legs; but he promised to come in a day or two.

When I reached home, I found that my

house was broken open a second time. I, however, took no notice of the circumstance till the field-cornet made his appearance. Speulman was immediately summoned into his presence. The culprit approached in fear and trembling, his body bent almost double, and respectfully assisting the fat functionary to alight from his horse, he began rubbing the animal down with great zeal.

The field-cornet, after hearing my complaint and what Speulman had to say for himself, very deliberately stooped down, and pulling up the lower part of his trousers, showed his leg to the Hottentot, telling him to look at it, and asked him if he was not a great rascal to give him the trouble and pain of riding so far to give him a flogging? Speulman went down on all-fours to examine it, affecting an infinite deal of sympathy by drawing in his breath as if he felt the pain himself, and expressed the most sincere concern that the "baas"* should have been put to so much trouble *on his account*.

The offender's hands were now secured by

* Master.

tying leather thongs round his wrists and drawing the other ends between the spokes of the waggon-wheel. I now began to feel some misgivings of conscience as to the impartiality of the judge, who had evidently determined how to act before he heard the Hottentot's defence; and, partly influenced by the culprit's promises of better behaviour for the future, I begged the field-cornet to release him. The latter was not at all displeased at being spared the trouble, but told Speulman that if he gave him occasion for another journey, he would settle both accounts at once.

Matters being now arranged to the satisfaction of all parties, the field-cornet went into the house with me to take some refreshment after his ride. Observing a human skull lying in a corner of the apartment, he asked me, with an appearance of curiosity, whence I had obtained it. I told him I found it at the edge of the forest in a long ravine near the house. "Then," said he, "that must be the pate of one of the Kaffres we shot some years ago. I and five or six others were hunting the whole day after three Kaffres who had stolen some of our cattle.

When we came to that ravine we sat down to refresh and rest ourselves, when I saw the three Kaffres coming along the path towards us. We immediately lay down behind the bushes, and remained 'dead still' till they came within shot, when we fired all together and killed them on the spot, and that skull must have belonged to one of them."

After I heard this account, I discovered the two other skulls in the forest at some distance, where they had been carried by the hyenas or leopards.

CHAPTER X.

Excursions into the Forest.—Mode of snaring the Wood-antelope.—Ingenious Trap for Leopards.—Many of these Animals killed.—Adventure with One.—Renewal of the Conflict.—An expert Hunter.—His Address and Dexterity.—Extraordinary Success.—An Elephant-Hunt.—Attempt to rear young Elephants.—Anecdote of the habits of the Animal.—Depredations committed by the Hyenas.—Singular Creature described.—Description of the Wood-rabbit.—The Puff-adder.—Number of Cattle.—Scarcity of Corn-mills.—Utility of Wax-berries.—Road through the Woods.—Story of a Blue Crane.—The Author removes to the Groote Valley.

In the course of my excursions into the forest, I found several long hedges, formed by the Kaffres by cutting down small bushes for the purpose of snaring the wood-antelopes or bush-bucks. Some of these extended for nearly half a mile through the woods. Small openings are left here and there, where the snares are placed.

The manner in which these snares are constructed is very ingenious. A long cord, formed of the bark of a particular shrub, is tied to the top of a straight sapling, and a noose is made at the other end of the cord. The sapling is then bent down to the ground, and the noose is pinned down in such a manner, that when the antelope treads within it the sapling flies up by its natural elasticity, suspending the animal in the air by the leg, where he hangs till the Kaffres come round in the morning to cut him down. Many of the snares were still remaining, with the shank of the antelope's leg fixed in them.

The contrivance for catching leopards is equally ingenious. They make a long cage, open at both ends, by driving short sticks into the ground in two rows, and tying other sticks across their tops. These cages are made low and narrow, so that the animal is obliged to crawl into them on its belly, and has not room to turn. He is thus obliged to go out at the other end, where a noose like the one I have already described seizes him by the neck, when

he is instantly suspended in the air and strangled. The trap is baited in the inside with a piece of flesh, and the end where the noose is fixed is covered with thorn-bushes.

We killed a great number of leopards, also, while I resided at this place, by setting spring-guns in the skirts of the forest baited with flesh. Shooting them in the usual way is often unsuccessful, and is sometimes attended with great danger to the hunters, particularly on going before the dogs, when the animal has been driven to seek shelter in a tree. On such occasions the leopard, neglecting the dogs, often springs upon the man nearest to him, and either kills him on the spot or tears him dreadfully with his teeth and claws.

To guard against an accident of this kind, I generally wrapped a thick piece of cloth round my left arm to thrust into the animal's mouth, and was always provided with a sharp-pointed knife to defend myself. They sometimes venture out of the woods at nightfall in search of water. One evening, after leaving off work, and taking a ride along the lake formed by the

rain at the bottom of the valley, I saw a leopard slaking his thirst in the water. I immediately dismounted, and sitting down on the grass to take a sure aim, fired, and shot him through the body. He gave a growl, and rolled over in the water. I attempted to give him a second shot with the other barrel, but it burnt priming.

The leopard now got on his legs, and came growling towards me, laying his ears back and writhing his tail. My first thought was to endeavour to make my escape; but my horse had taken fright, and ran away to a considerable distance. Not expecting to meet with this dangerous antagonist, I had left my knife at home, and was without any means of defence or escape. I therefore determined to try what impudence would do; and, waiting till the animal came within twenty paces of me, I ran furiously at him, shouting at the top of my voice, and brandishing my gun over my head.

This manœuvre was attended with complete success; for the leopard immediately altered

his course, and ascended the steep side of the valley, and taking his station on a rock at the summit, sat down and watched my motions for some time, while I backed off to regain my horse, still keeping my eye on him.

It was too dark to renew the attack that night; but, knowing that he was severely wounded and could not go far, I watched him till I saw him enter a thick clump of bush, where I hoped to find him again.

As soon as it was daylight on the following morning, taking one of my people with me and my dogs, I went to pay him a second visit. As soon as we came to the bush into which he had crawled, the dogs attacked him, and he clambered into a tree for protection. I at last got sight of his head among the thick foliage, his eyes glaring fiercely at me. Guessing at the position of his body, I fired at him, and he dropped to the ground. The dogs again closed with him; but he bit and tore them so dreadfully with his claws, that none of them could be encouraged to return to the conflict.

The bush was so thick that we could not get a sight of him without great danger; but at

last, losing all patience, I crawled into the thicket on my hands and feet, but had no sooner got a view of my enemy, than he crawled out at the opposite side, and fairly made his escape; for the dogs could not be induced to engage in a second encounter. My only comfort under my disappointment was, that he could not live long with the wounds he had got.

Some months after forming my new settlement, I engaged a Hottentot to shoot elephants and buffaloes for me, on condition of receiving half of the profits. This man, who was called Jan Wildeman, was a most expert hunter, rarely failing to kill on the spot whatever he fired at. He was a complete wild man of the woods, and had as many wiles as a fox in escaping the dangers to which he was daily exposed. His activity was most extraordinary; and I was often surprised with his nimbleness in climbing the highest trees to get at the wild vines growing over their tops. While I was considering how I could get up, he would take hold of one of the "baboon's ropes," as they are called, which hang in festoons from the branches, and in a few seconds he would be

perched like a crow on the top, enjoying my surprise, and flinging down whole bunches of the fruit.

Though naturally timid, he had acquired, by long practice, such entire confidence in the correctness of his aim, that he would go right up to an elephant in the woods and bring him down with the first shot. Sometimes, however, his gun would miss fire, when he had to betake himself to his heels, and, by his agility and address never failed to effect his escape. His adventures of this kind would fill a volume.

Wildeman came to inform me one evening that he had shot three elephants and a buffalo; and that there was a young elephant still remaining with the body of its dead mother, which he thought might be caught, and brought home alive. There happened to be two friends with me from the district of Albany, who had never seen an elephant, and whom, therefore, I persuaded to accompany me. One of these gentlemen has already given an account of this little adventure in an interesting little work entitled, "Scenes in Albany;" but as my readers may

not have seen it, they will excuse me for telling the story in my own way.

As soon as we had finished our breakfast, we set off, accompanied by Jan Wildeman, my Hottentot Speulman, and their wives, to assist in cutting up the buffalo and carrying the flesh home.

Entering the forest, Jan first brought us to the carcase of the buffalo; but the fellow was so lazy that he had not taken out the entrails, and the weather being warm, the flesh was unfit for use. He next led us to one of the elephants he had killed, and showed us the spot whence he had fired. The ball had entered the shoulder in a slanting direction, and passed through the heart. This was an exceedingly difficult shot, as he required to be very near to hit the right place, and for the ball to penetrate through such a mass of skin and flesh.

In shooting elephants, it is necessary to be provided with balls made of an equal mixture of tin and lead, as lead balls generally flatten on the skin or bones. Our ignorance of this circumstance at Fredericksburg, accounts for

the trouble we experienced in killing the elephants there.

After following several of the paths made by these animals, and struggling through the tangled mazes of the forest, we ascended a steep sandy ridge covered with low bushes near the shore; and on reaching the top, we came in sight of the carcase of another of the elephants, and the young one standing by it. At a few paces distance, we saw a large elephant browsing among the low bushes. He smelt us as soon as we appeared on the top of the hill, and throwing up his trunk and spreading out his huge ears, uttered a most discordant cry. "Gownatsi!" ejaculated Jan Wildeman, "that's the d—d rascal that gave me so much trouble yesterday; he's as cunning as the devil."

The dogs instantly assailed the animal, and after several ineffectual attempts to seize them with his trunk, he made off. The dogs now attacked the young elephant and chased him up the steep sandy hill where we were standing. My visiters who were unaccustomed to large game, were exceedingly agitated. They had brought a gun with them for form sake,

but had neglected to load it. One of them, who was a Scotchman, seized me by the coat and cried out in great agony, "Eh! man, whaar'ill we rin?—whaar'ill we rin?" It was no use telling him that there was not any danger, for he still kept fast hold of me saying, "What, nae danger, man, and the beest comin' right up amang us! I say, man, what'ill we do? —whaar'll we rin?'" The women instinctively ran and squatted themselves down behind the bushes.

As soon as I could break loose from the grasp of my countryman, I ran to endeavour to seize the young elephant by the trunk, and Speulman took his stand on the oppoisite side for the same purpose. I was astonished at the nimbleness with which the animal ascended the steep hill. As he approached the spot where we stood, we found he was much older than we expected, being nearly as large as an ox; and after making an ineffectual attempt to get hold of his trunk, we were obliged to give him a free passage between us. I now picked up my gun and gave chase to him, but he ran so fast that I could not overtake him.

I was well pleased we had not succeeded in seeing him, as in all probability he would have done us some serious injury with his tusks which were just appearing at the root of the trunk. When they are only a few days old, there is no difficulty in catching them, and they become docile almost immediately. Several attempts have been made to rear them with cows' milk, but without success.

It is remarkable that the young of the elephant, when a few days old, are not much higher than a young calf; but their bodies are rounder and more bulky. It is also a curious circumstance, that the carcases of elephants which have died a natural death are never found by the natives in the woods where they are most abundant.

It is commonly believed by the Dutch and Hottentots, that these animals drag the bodies away and bury them. I have, however, never seen anything to confirm this belief, and I should rather suppose that when sick, they retire farther into the interior of the country. The same story, however, is told by the Kaffres and by the natives of the west coast of Africa;

as I have been informed by several persons who have been at Sierra Leone and Senegal.

The hyenas, or Cape wolves, are very numerous in this part of the country; but they are not so destructive to the cattle as in other parts of the colony, as they subsist in a great measure on antelopes and the carcasses of the elephants which have been shot in the forest. In driving home my cattle one evening, my Hottentot happened to leave a lame calf in the fields. It was scarcely dark, when I heard the howls of a couple of hyenas, and shortly afterwards the cries of the calf. I instantly took my gun, and accompanied by my Hottentot, ran to its assistance. We had not proceeded far when the cries ceased, and we saw two cows returning from the spot where we had first heard them. One of the cows was the mother of the calf, and the second, having lost its own calf a few days before, had formed an attachment to that of the other.

In the morning, we found the calf among the other cattle, but so dreadfully torn by the hyenas, that it died some time afterwards. It was evident that these two cows had fairly

defeated and put to flight the cowardly hyenas, affording a remarkable instance of the courage of animals in defence of their young.

It would be tedious to relate all the little adventures and incidents that occured in hunting the different animals during my residence at this place; I shall therefore confine myself to such as possess some degree of novelty, or tend to illustrate their general habits. It will no doubt be interesting to naturalists to have an account of a small animal which I saw two or three times in this place and no where else, and which I believe has never been described before, for even my Dutch neighbours were totally ignorant of its existence. In riding out one evening, my dogs started one of the creatures, to which I have alluded above, in a marshy hollow. From its size, peculiar rattling cry, and general appearance, I at first thought it was a "ratel" which is now well known to naturalists.

As it approached the spot where I was standing in its way to the woods, I perceived that it was covered on the back with short thick quills, similar in colour to those of the porcupine,

though it did not resemble the latter animal in any other particular. Unfortunately I had not a gun with me, but I endeavoured to stop it by crossing its path to encourage the dogs to seize it. The creature immediately attacked my horse's legs, and looked up at me with a most malevolent expression of countenance, snarling and grinding its teeth, which afforded me an opportunity of observing it more minutely.

It was nearly five feet in length, but short in the legs, and flat in the body like the "ratel." The quills extended like an oval shield from the shoulder to the tail, which was short and flat, and also covered with short quills on the upper side. The lower parts of the body and legs were covered with short black hair; the feet resembled those of a cat, and were armed with strong claws. The neck was rather long and thin, and the head was round, resembling that of a cat, but flatter, and both covered with short black hair. Its ears were round and very short, and the eyes resembled those of a human being, and had a peculiar melancholy expression mixed with ferocity. The creature bit so furiously at the legs of my horse that he

nearly threw me, and it escaped into the forest, for the dogs were afraid to lay hold of it.

A few weeks afterwards, in returning home by moonlight, I saw between fifteen and twenty of these ferocious little animals in the same place where the first mentioned was started, and two or three of the nearest to me immediately attacked the legs of my horse, and I was obliged to quicken my pace to get rid of them. They do not run very fast, but on foot it would be difficult to escape them.

Judging from the situation in which I saw them, it is probable that they live upon frogs, rats, and mice, and perhaps snakes, as I have been told that these reptiles have been found in the stomach of the "ratel," to which these curious animals bear the greatest resemblance in their general form and character.

There is another curious animal found in this part of the country, called the "bosch dassie," or wood rabbit. It is very seldom seen, but its curious cry, beginning with a clucking noise, and ending in a long squall, is often heard in the woods of a morning. It inhabits hollow trees, and runs with great agility along the

branches. I had often been told about these creatures by the Hottentots, but always believed that the cry I heard proceeded from a bird.

One morning, however, while hunting in the woods, I had an opportunity of satisfying my curiosity. Hearing the cry near me, I cautiously stole towards the spot, and saw the little animal sitting on the branch of a tree. I shot him in the back, so that the ball came out below his head, breaking the lower jaw in its way.

To my astonishment, the creature set off, running with great nimbleness along the branch to a neighbouring tree, and dropped, like a shot, into the hollow trunk. I could just reach its hind legs, and by tying my handkerchief to one of them, I pulled it out and killed it.

It was somewhat smaller in size than a full grown rabbit, and was covered with soft grey fur. It had sharp canine teeth, and its head resembled that of a rat, the nose being long and pointed. The ears, to the best of my recollection, were small and angular. In its general

appearance, particularly when sitting, it partook of the forms of the rabbit and rat; but the feet were of the most singular construction, and admirably adapted to its mode of life. There were four toes on each, two on either side, and long and fleshy like the human fingers, to enable it to clasp the branches in running from tree to tree. I can venture no conjecture as to the food on which it subsists. The animal is well-known to the natives of the colony who live near the woods on the frontier, but I am not aware of its having been described by naturalists.

While I resided at Hoy, I was often annoyed with the visits of the snakes, which crawled into my house when the door happened to be open in the warm weather. A German naturalist, who was collecting birds and snakes, had been some time on a visit at my place. One day, on returning from my work, I found him busy at his usual employment of stuffing some birds he had shot in the woods. Observing a large puff-adder stretched at its whole length along the end of the room, I thought he had put it there to show his skill.

As soon as he saw it, without saying a word, he took the iron ramrod out of a gun standing near him, and very coolly thrust the end of it through the reptile's head, when it instantly disgorged a quantity of milk from its stomach. On further examination, I found that the creature had been regaling itself in a churn that stood in the room, and had fallen asleep where I saw it.

I shall now give some account of my farming operations. Being without any capital excepting my half-pay, a great part of which was consumed in furnishing my little establishment with agricultural implements and provisions, I necessarily commenced under some disadvantages. I managed, however, by my savings to purchase a few breeding cows and working-oxen, which by their increase in two or three years amounted to upwards of a hundred head. I also cultivated several acres of ground for my own use; but, being more than fifty miles from Grahamstown, and having extreme difficulty in procuring labourers, I was obliged to confine my operations to grazing and making butter, for which latter article there is a ready sale at

Uitenhage, from which my place was about eighty miles distant.

The price of butter varies from 4½d. to 6¾d. per pound. My stock was too small to sell any cattle, as I required all I could spare for domestic consumption. The Dutch were in more prosperous circumstances from having slaves and large families, as well as large stocks of cattle. They also possess a great advantage, as I have formerly observed, in being able to make most of their agricultural implements and waggons.

This part of the colony was so ill supplied with corn-mills, that I was obliged to send my wheat, nearly seventy miles, to the Moravian Missionary station, called Enon, at "Wit Water," to be ground. Several of the farmers in my immediate neighbourhood had ample means, but they were so exceedingly unwilling to lay out any of their savings, that though they were well aware of the profits they would derive from the undertaking, not one of them could be persuaded to erect a windmill which would have repaid the capital expended in less than three years.

I occasionally employed my people at spare times in gathering wax-berries, that grow in great abundance upon small bushes in the sandhills near the sea, and yield a substance partaking of the nature of wax and tallow, which is mixed with common tallow, and used by the colonists for making candles. The berry is about the size of a pea, and covered with a bluish powder. They are gathered by spreading a skin on the sand, and beating the bush with a stick. When a sufficient quantity of the berries are collected, they are boiled with a large quantity of water, and the wax is skimmed off as it rises. The wax is then poured into flat vessels and allowed to cool, when it becomes hard and brittle, and has a metallic sound when struck. The cakes thus formed are of a deep green colour, and are sold for the same price as tallow. The wild pigs devour these berries when they come in their way, and seem to be very fond of them.

After I had resided for nearly three years in my present situation, finding that my health suffered from the sudden alternations of cold and heat in the deep valley, and from the

exhalations arising from the decay of vegetable matter, I determined to remove to our other place along the coast, which lay higher, and was consequently more equal in its temperature; but before we could get to it, we were obliged to cut a waggon-road for more than two miles through the woods which divided the two places.

I immediately commenced this laborious work, and with the assistance of two Hottentots, in ten days succeeded in opening a road with our axes of sufficient breadth to allow a waggon to pass. We were greatly assisted in our undertaking by following a wide path made by the elephants, which had broken down many of the branches of the trees on either side.

While I was engaged with my people in this necessary work, I generally received two or three visits in the course of the day from a blue crane I had tamed, and which was exceedingly attached to me. I was never long in the woods before I heard my favourite's well-known cry, and on looking up I generally saw him hovering above me, and in a few minutes he would

drop at my feet, pull my shoe-strings and play a hundred antics round me, flapping his wings, dancing, and leaping up in the most grotesque manner. Then he would pull the dogs' ears and tails, and when he had thoroughly provoked them, he would fly away home.

When I went out with my dogs he generally trotted after me in the midst of them for some distance, or soared above me high in the air. The poor creature was very fond of society, which at last cost him his life. He had for some time been in the habit of sleeping among my cattle in the "kraal," where he thought himself in perfect security. One night, however, after dark, he alighted too suddenly among them, and probably taking him for some wild animal, the cattle made a rush at him, and trod him to death before he could make his escape.

Some time before I removed to my new situation, I had purchased my brother's share of the place, which is called the "Groote Valley," or the great lake, from a large pond of rain-water it contains, which however was occasionally dried up after long droughts in the

summer season. I determined to fix my abode here for the future, as, in the event of the natural pond failing, I had little doubt of procuring a sufficient supply of water by digging in the sand along the beach.

CHAPTER XI.

Beautiful Scenery.—Situation of the Author's dwelling.—High Range of Hills.—The Kaffre-tree.—Accumulation of Sand.—Change in the Face of the Country.—Limestone Crusts.—Curious Phenomenon.—Narrow Escape from an Elephant.—Proposal for the grazing of Cattle.—A Mason and Carpenter engaged.—The Author erects a more substantial Habitation.—Deserted by his Servants.—His solitary Life.—His Occupations.—Excursions into the Woods.—Herd of Buffaloes.—An Adventure with a timorous Companion.—Laughable Incident.

THE scenery at my new place was exceedingly beautiful, and much more varied than that of the spot I had left, as it commanded an extensive prospect along the coast from Cape Padron, near which it is situated, to Cape Recriefe, the western extremity of Algoa bay. The Groote Valley is about six miles in length, extending in a narrow strip between the thickly wooded hills and the low bushes along the beach.

The situation I selected for my hut was on

the top of a steep grassy hill which overlooked the sea, above which it was elevated nearly four hundred feet. About a mile inland from my house, which was in the middle of the place, there was a deep hollow surrounded by high wooded hills, with long ravines descending into it from all sides. The large natural pond from which the place derived its name, and two smaller ones, are situated in this hollow, and were supplied with rain-water from the hills.

To the westward of my hut there was a long narrow plain nearly on a level with the sea, from which it was separated by a chain of low sandhills covered with small trees and bushes; and behind this plain rose a parallel ridge of high grassy hills, with a belt of wood covering the steep side fronting the sea.

Farther inland rose a still higher range of rounded steep hills, covered by the margin of the extensive forest to which I have already alluded, and intersected by long ravines in all directions. The steep woody face of the range of hills next to the sea was broken by deep gullies worn out by the torrents which de-

scend from the higher hills during heavy rains. These gullies are almost precipitous in the sides, which are often two or three hundred feet in height, and present the most romantic scenery. Nothing can exceed the richness of the soil and luxuriance of the herbage on this place, even to the summit of the highest hills wherever they are clear of wood.

The trees here, as in other parts of the colony, are almost all evergreens; and during several months, when the Kaffre-trees are covered with their large red blossoms, they impart a rich purple tinge to the forests. The Kaffre-tree has been described by Bruce, who has given a most accurate drawing of the flower and the pod: the latter contains several red beans, which, he says, are used in the eastern countries, by the name of "carats," for weighing gold. It obtains its colonial name of the Kaffre-tree from being found chiefly in Kaffreland and the neighbouring parts of the colony. When the blossoms of this beautiful tree first make their appearance, the Kaffres begin to sow their grain; and a surer criterion for judging of the proper season could not be found.

The whole range of high irregular hills, and the extensive forest which covers them, and which stretch along the coast from the neighbourhood of the Bosjesmans' river to near the Sunday river, evidently owe their origin to the calcareous sand which, in the course of ages, has been thrown up by the sea and blown inland by the prevailing winds.

The original face of the country on which these hills rest is somewhat level, and the strata are composed of hard grey sandstone, which again makes its appearance on the beach in several places, where strong springs of water escape to the sea.

At first sight, it appears almost inconceivable that hills of the height of seven or eight hundred feet could be formed by the accumulation of sand blown together; but, when I had an opportunity of observing the gradual process by which it is effected along the beach, and the materials of which the sides of the gullies, which have been washed out by the torrents, are composed, I could no longer feel any doubts as to the fact.

I have already mentioned that a furious surf

breaks perpetually on the beach along the coast. This surf is continually grinding the sea shells and sand into the smallest particles, which are readily carried inland by the prevailing southerly and south-easterly winds, and thrown up in parallel ranges of sandhills, which are continually increasing in height. For some time these sandhills attain but a moderate elevation; but gradually the action of the rain and air seems to decompose the calcareous particles a little below the surface, where the sand has been rendered more compact by the weight of the superincumbent matter: and thus several thin crusts of soft limestone are created, which in time give consistency to the mass, and create a nucleus for a further augmentation and a repetition of the process.

While these operations are going forward, a variety of creeping plants and shrubs take root in the loose sand on the surface, and, binding it together, form by their decay a more productive soil, where other shrubs and trees can find support, and which in their turn give place to new species. In the mean time, as the trees and shrubs intercept the sand blown up from

the beach, the process of accumulation goes on at a more rapid rate than at first, until the hills have attained their present elevation. As these successive chains of sandhills are thrown up by the surf and the winds, the sea of course gradually recedes behind the barriers it has raised for itself; and there can be no doubt that the land along the whole of the southern coast of South Africa is gradually gaining on the ocean.

Judging from the present appearance of the mouths of the rivers and smaller streams along the coast, it is highly probable that they have all been deep inlets of the sea at some former period. The larger streams, into which the tide still flows for several miles, appear to be gradually becoming shallower at their mouths by the operation of the causes alluded to. In the mouths of some of the smaller streams, such as the Kowie and Karuka rivers in Albany, where the sea at high-water covers several hundred acres, small islets of sand and high sandhills are forming, which in all probability will increase in size until the salt-water is entirely excluded, and the rivers form large fresh water lakes within the sandhills, or find their

way to the ocean by filtration through the sand.

Many small streams along the coast appear to have undergone this change and now lose themselves in deep-seated and level valleys between high hills, which have formerly been open to the sea, but are at present raised considerably above its level and blocked up by sandhills.

In examining the sides of the gullies where the ground had been excavated to a great depth, I observed a number of thin crusts of limestone running nearly parallel with each other and with the external surface of the hills. Between these crusts, which were seldom above a foot in thickness, there were deep beds of compact sand, containing, as well as the limestone crusts, great numbers of large snail-shells, but no sea-shells of any kind in an entire state.

The highest crust in the series was about three feet below the surface of the ground; and the soil above it was a mixture of calcareous sand, snail-shells in an entire state, fragments of sea-shells which looked as if they had been burnt, and a rich black vegetable

mould. It is probable that the sea-shells had been brought there by the Hottentots and Kaffres, who formerly inhabited this country in great numbers.

In digging a ditch round my corn-land, I found pieces of burnt wood and charcoal, and the bones of buffaloes and common cattle, lying immediately upon the limestone crust.

These bones were but little decayed, and had not been petrified by the calcareous matter around them; whereas the sandhills near the sea abounded with vegetable matter and bones in a petrified state. It is therefore evident that the first-mentioned bones had not lain for any great length of time in their present situation, and consequently that the soil above them is but of recent formation.

Assuming, therefore, that the average depth of the vegetable soil is about two feet, and that the soil is annually increased about the fourth part of an inch by the decay of the grass, a hundred years would be more than sufficient to convert the bare sands into a rich soil covered with luxuriant herbage.

The most remarkable circumstance in this

part of the coast is the large proportion of pulverised sea-shells intermixed with the silicious sand. It is therefore probable that there are very extensive reefs of rocks under the sea near Cape Padron to furnish these immense quantities of shells. This great predominance of calcareous matter sufficiently accounts for the extraordinary fertility and verdure of this part of the colony.

While I am upon this subject, I cannot help mentioning a curious phenomenon that occurred while I was engaged in digging for water near my house. Observing a small hollow which often contained water, I set my people to work with their spades in hopes of finding a permanent spring. After digging to the depth of four feet, we came to a limestone crust similar to what I have already described. With great difficulty we broke a small hole through it, and I began to bore with an auger I had fixed on the end of a long stick. When I had reached the depth of fifteen feet another crust interrupted my farther progress, and I was obliged to desist till I could procure a more efficient instrument.

In closing up the mouth of the hole, I heard a loud hissing noise, and on examining it, I felt the air rushing out with great force through a small opening I had left. I was at first exceedingly surprised at the circumstance; but on returning to inspect it after sunset, I found that the air was rushing *into* the hole with equal strength. I now guessed at the cause of the phenomenon. During the heat of the day, the air being more rarified above than below the limestone crust in the well, the colder air, contained in the sandy and porous stratum below, naturally rushed out to fill the vacuum: at night, on the contrary, the air being colder and more condensed above than below the crust, rushed downwards through the opening.

I sometimes amused myself in trying to invent an instrument to measure the velocity of the wind as it rushed through the aperture either way, which would have answered the purpose of a thermometer. I was, however, disappointed in finding a spring in this place; but in the hollow near the pond where I watered my cattle, I had previously found a small

spring, by digging seven or eight feet, which afforded an ample supply for domestic purposes.

I had constructed a temporary hut close to this spring, where I remained until I had fixed on a site for my permanent residence. My Hottentot inhabited another within twenty yards of a still slighter description, and my cattle lay around us at night. Being within three hundred yards of the edge of the forest, we were often disturbed by the elephants. One night I had just fallen asleep, when I was awakened by a loud shriek from one of these troublesome neighbours, and on jumping out of bed, I saw a large elephant standing near my cattle, which seemed to be in the greatest alarm, snuffing and poking out their noses towards the intruder.

I called to my Hottentot to fire off his gun to scare him away, as the creature did not seem aware that his old haunts were occupied by human beings. On hearing my voice, our visiter retired slowly to the woods, where, contrary to my wish, the Hottentot followed him. The moon was shining brightly, and he did not like

to fire his gun for nothing. Before he entered the margin of the forest, I entreated him to return; but he was too intent on his game to listen to my cautions.

He had hardly disappeared among the trees, when I heard a sudden crash and a tremendous scream; and the next moment Ruiter came running at full speed towards my hut, crying out "O God! O God!" closely followed by the elephant, which seemed bent on his destruction. Instantly seizing my gun, I ran to his assistance. I got within eighty yards of the animal, and fired. Just at this moment, one of our dogs, which had followed the Hottentot, crossed between him and his pursuer; and whether my shot had any effect in scaring the elephant I cannot say, but he instantly wheeled round and pursued the dog towards the forest.

A few seconds would have decided the Hottentot's fate; for the elephant was within fifteen paces of him when I fired. "O God!" Ruiter exclaimed, as he sank exhausted on the ground near me, "I was almost caught!—if it had not been for mynheer's shot and that good

dog, I should have been trampled to pieces by this time. I have seen plenty of elephants before now, but this is the cunningest rascal I ever had to do with. He did not even give me time to fire my gun, for he stood dead still under the shadow of a large Kaffre-tree—then, whur-r-r-r!"—imitating the elephant's cry—"the old rascal was after me. O God! O God! mynheer, I shall never go after an elephant in the night again! I'm fairly done up—I could not have run twenty paces farther if the devil had been after me!"

I was anxious to erect a substantial house; but my means were too limited to enable me to effect my object without involving myself to a degree that would have lessened my feeling of independence, which I valued much more than any comfort. Learning, however, that a merchant at Uitenhage was salting beef for exportation to the Mauritius, I offered to graze his cattle at a low rate on my place, which was admirably adapted for the purpose; and, as a farther inducement to accept my proposal, I agreed to purchase whatever European articles I might require for my new house

from his store. He, of course, was glad to make a bargain with me on these terms, which would save him about half of what he usually paid to other farmers for grazing his cattle; and he immediately sent me five hundred head. An English farmer would smile when I tell him that I only received fourpence-halfpenny a head per month; but it answered my purpose to take them at that rate, to enable me to build my house.

This necessary point being settled, my next object was to procure a mason and a carpenter, which was no easy matter, as people of this description find ample employment at the different towns, where they have an opportunity of spending their earnings in drinking, to which most of the working class are much addicted.

For my mason I was obliged to travel about a hundred miles. He was one of the Scotchmen whom my eldest brother brought out to the colony in 1817. I procured a carpenter at Grahamstown, who was also one of my brother's people. I had at this time only one Hottentot in my service; and I was obliged to

make two or three journeys to the missionary station at Theopolis, in Albany, which was about forty miles from the "Groote Valley," before I could procure a couple of Hottentots to assist the mason. At length the latter personage made his appearance, and we immediately commenced our operations.

The place affording no good brick earth, I determined to build my dwelling of limestone, which was the only kind found on it. The only spot where we could find this stone of sufficient thickness and hardness, was in the side of a steep hill, about a mile from the house, from whence we had to carry it in a waggon. For all these purposes I had not a sufficient number of hands, and I was therefore obliged to work hard myself. I chose the operation of quarrying, and rolling the stones down the hill to the waggon, as the employment I was best fitted for, though by far the most laborious; and, with a very little assistance, I managed to keep the mason supplied with the necessary materials for building.

At length, we got the walls up to their full height; and when the carpenter had con-

structed the roof, I went with my people to cut rushes at our other place, to cover it in. My mason, who could turn his hand to anything, undertook to thatch my habitation, in which I assisted him.

Before the work was completed, the time of their engagement having expired, the two Hottentents I had hired left me. I had now only one Hottentot servant remaining to assist the mason in building the partitions and plastering the inside of the house, and who had also to milk the cows morning and evening.

As soon as my house was finished, the mason and carpenter went to Grahamstown, and I was trying to make myself as comfortable in my new habitation as circumstances would allow, till I could procure more labourers. My remaining Hottentot's term of service having also expired, he was seized with a longing to visit some of his friends, and no wages would induce him to remain longer with me.

I was thus left alone on my new place, and in my new house, to lead a kind of Robinson-Crusoe life, with the pleasure of herding a troop of six hundred head of cattle, for five

hundred of which I was responsible to the owner. I had also to provide firewood, and water to cook my victuals; and I could not leave the place to look out for other servants for fear of any accident happening to the cattle in my absence. I had never been in this situation before, and at first I felt very uncomfortable at the prospect before me. I determined, however, to try what I could do for myself. I had, fortunately, a considerable quantity of salt beef and plenty of coarse flour.

The first thing I did was to catch my horse, which I tethered close to the house, to have him at hand to bring my cattle home in the evening to the "kraal," where they were secure from the hyenas, and other wild animals. I next turned all the calves loose, with their mothers, except one, which belonged to one of the tamest of the cows, which I designed to milk. I then went to the edge of the forest and carried home a large bundle of fire-wood on my back. This I found the most disagreeable part of my labour; but a few days' practice rendered it easy. After these preliminary operations, I set to work and cooked as much

beef, and made as many cakes, as would last me for two or three days, and then taking a book, I sat down and amused myself till the evening, when I brought my cattle home, and milked my cow.

My only companion in my solitude was a large tom cat, for my dogs had followed my Hottentot when he left me. This cat soon learned to know the cow that supplied him with milk, and when I was bringing the cattle home in the evening, after coming to meet me a few hundred yards from the house, he would follow close at her heels till I tied her up for the night, and he received his own share from the milkpail.

Sometimes I took my gun after breakfast, and wandered through the forest in search of buffaloes and bush-bucks, to vary my diet a little. In a few days I became not only quite reconciled to my situation, but even began to enjoy it. My only fear was, that some of the straggling Kaffres, who frequented the woods for the purpose of snaring bush-bucks, might be tempted to set fire to my house in my absence.

As for society, I was not in a much worse condition than before, and I never wanted for amusement between my books and shooting. I had always been an enthusiastic admirer of Nature, and I delighted to follow her through her wildest haunts. I wandered through the forest with my gun, hardly knowing which way I was going; sometimes emerging from them in some verdant savanna, surrounded by high-wooded hills, and often surprised a bush-buck, slaking his thirst in one of the natural ponds, which are frequently met with in the hollows.

The very danger attending my peregrinations had from habit become a source of pleasing excitement. Occasionally I came suddenly upon a troop of elephants, browsing on the slender twigs of the trees, or quietly fanning themselves with their huge ears in the heat of the day, when the breaking of a large branch would awaken me from my reveries, and I would turn off in another direction. If I happened to be to windward of them, they generally smelt me and made off, making the hills

and valleys resound with the breaking of the branches in their way.

One day I went into the forest on horseback, with an axe in my hand, to mark out the course of a road I intended to cut through it to a farm on the other side, at the distance of six miles. I entered a broad elephants' path, at the bottom of a long ravine, which I ascended, to the top of a long irregular ridge, where I found another large path leading in the direction I wished to make the waggon-road. I had not proceeded far along the ridge when I heard a crackling among the bushes on all sides of me. I knew that the noise proceeded from a large herd of buffaloes, and that the elephants could not be far off, for these animals generally follow each other's motions.

The next moment, at a turning in the path, I met a huge male buffalo face to face, within twelve paces of me. He poked out his nose, and then put down his head, as if he meant to run at me with his horns. I was passing under a small tree at the time, and I instantly caught at one of the nearest branches with my hands, and pulling myself up from the saddle, was

soon out of danger. The animal raised his head and observed me for a moment; then flinging himself round, he darted into the thickest of the forest. I gave a loud shout, and instantly the whole troop were in motion all round me, their heavy treads making a noise like distant thunder, till they were out of hearing.

When I descended from my roost, I found my horse in the same place, running down with perspiration and trembling in every limb. It is remarkable that horses which have never seen an elephant or buffalo are instinctively alarmed on smelling them at a distance.

I never went half a mile without starting some of the wood-antelopes, or bush-bucks, as they are commonly called; but unless I fired instantly on seeing them, they soon escaped among the underwood.

Before my mason left me, he had rather a narrow escape from a couple of elephants, which I forgot to relate in its proper place. This man was so excessively timid, and had heard such dismal accounts of the danger from elephants and buffaloes at my place, that I had

the greatest difficulty to persuade him to accompany me through the woods, with which it was surrounded on all sides.

Like most nervous people, he was at the same time exceedingly anxious to conceal his fears, and I was often much diverted with his contending emotions. His stock of tobacco having been expended, he one Sunday begged me, as a particular favour, to accompany him to our other place to get a supply of wild tobacco, a considerable quantity of which was still growing at an old Kaffre kraal there. Thinking that there was little chance of meeting any elephants in the day-time along the waggon-road I had cut through the forest, I did not take my gun, which was an incumbrance on horseback.

While we were riding through the open country, my companion kept alongside of me, telling me that he was not the least afraid of the elephants. But, as we approached the edge of the forest, he became very silent, and gradually fell in the rear, and when I looked round to encourage him to proceed at a quicker pace, he would answer me with a faltering voice, "I'm no a bit feared noo; they'll no

catch *me* in a hurry," giving a kick at the same time to his old horse, which he well knew was not in the habit of taking a *gentle* hint. Then he would try to whistle some lively Scotch tune, with affected unconcern, until he heard the rustling of a bush-buck, bounding through the underwood, when he would immediately turn pale as a sheet, and call out to me with a low tremulous voice,—"Lord save us! what's that, sir? Is that no an elephant? D' ye hear that crank afore us? I 'll no gang ony farther. Come, sir, we 'll gang back, it 's no cannie gaain through the bush without a gun;—'gin I had a gun I wadna care for them."

After a great deal of persuasion I at last got him to proceed, on my assurance that I would give him timely notice should there be any real danger. As soon as we quitted the wood, he instantly recovered his self-possession, and told me that he would not mind going by himself in future. He had packed up a large bundle of tobacco-leaves in his handkerchief, and we were returning home through the forest, when, on entering an open savanna, we saw a herd of between three and four hundred buffaloes

grazing along the edge of the woods, on the side of a grassy hill at some distance.

I asked my companion to stop a moment to observe their motions; but he instantly urged his old horse into something like a gallop, exclaiming, "Ye 'll no get *me* to gang and look at them, ae sight 's enough for *me*." When I overtook him he had reached a deep woody ravine, which divided the savanna from the "Groate Valley." Though he could see the grass on the other side of the ravine at only eight hundred yards' distance, he was afraid to cross it alone for fear of falling in with more buffaloes; for the dread of these animals was now uppermost in his mind.

Going thirty or forty yards before him, I had descended nearly to the bottom of the ravine, when my attention was attracted by some white objects, which were slowly proceeding from under the dark shade of the trees, and the next moment two large elephants, whose tusks I had first seen, advanced into the middle of the road hardly thirty paces from me. I turned my horse round as quietly as I could, and retreated up the path by which I had de-

scended, telling my companion in a slow voice of his danger, as I passed him.

On looking back, I perceived that he had succeeded in turning his horse's head half round, and was rising up and down in his saddle, and flogging him with all his might; but the obstinate brute would not move a step from the spot, for he was not aware of his own or his master's perilous situation.

At last he threw himself from his immoveable steed, but in his extreme trepidation he got his foot entangled in a leathern thong, which supplied the place of a stirrup, and he lay on his back tugging and kicking to extricate the imprisoned limb, still unconsciously grasping the bundle of tobacco-leaves in his left hand. I am ashamed to say, I could hardly help laughing at the terror painted on the pallid countenance of the poor mason, contrasted with the obstinate and phlegmatic indifference of the old horse, which still remained without motion, with his head turned towards his prostrate rider.

In the mean time, the wind being in our favour, the two elephants fortunately did not

observe us, and, crossing the road, entered the woods on the opposite side. After several unsuccessful efforts, the mason disentangled his leg, and came running up the road to the spot where I was standing, without venturing to look behind him. He dropped his bundle on the way to amuse the elephants, as he afterwards told me, to gain time to make his escape.

When he reached the edge of the wood, he sat down on the ground quite exhausted with his exertions. But now a fresh difficulty occurred, for he swore that nothing would induce him to trust himself in the woods again, and we had no means of leaving the savanna without passing through some part of the forest, which surrounded it. I asked him if he meant to build a house for himself, and to spend his days where he was. This question brought him to his senses, and he saw that he had only a choice of evils, but I could not get him to pass the scene of his late danger until I had ridden twice through the ravine, to show him that there was no further cause of alarm.

CHAPTER XII.

Mode of destroying Hyenas. — A Month of Solitude. — Time for Reflection. — Offer of Assistance. — The Author receives a Partner in his Farm. — Failure of the Wheat Crops. — Particulars respecting Mr. S——. — Excursion into the Kaffre Country. — Scenery of the Fish River. — Daring Hunters. — Arrival at Fort Willshire. — Fairs with the Kaffres. — Restriction on Spirituous Liquors. — Trade with the Kaffres. — Graceful Appearance of the Men. — Equalization of Property. — Practice of Polygamy. — Religious Notions. — Simple form of Government. — Influence of the Chiefs. — Established Usages. — Belief in Witchcraft. — Rain-Makers. — Domestic Habits. — Taste for Music. — Journey to Lovedale. — Costume of the Kaffres. — Assagays, or Javelins. — Symmetry of the Kaffres. — Mode of Life. — Arrival at a Kraal.

To make the most of my time during my solitary life at "Groote Valley," I often employed myself in destroying hyenas by smoking them to death in their holes. When I observed any fresh tracks leading into their subterraneous retreats, I immediately collected a

quantity of dry wood from the forest, and, piling it up in the mouth of the hole, set fire to it. After it had burned for some time, I stopped up the entrance with earth, to retain the smoke and heat.

In this manner, I amused myself in my loneliness for about a month; and when I look back after several years have passed, I am far from thinking that this month was the least happy period of my life. Though occasional solitude is attended with excellent effects on the mind, in leading men to reflect on what they have seen and heard during their previous intercourse with the world, yet when it is prolonged for any considerable time, the mind gradually sinks into inactivity, for want of materials to keep it employed. These materials can only be supplied by books, or still more, by an interchange of thought with others, which, like the kaleidoscope, at every turning produces endless combinations of ideas, which may be further augmented in number and variety by reflection.

But men who live perpetually in a crowd have little time for reflection: on the other

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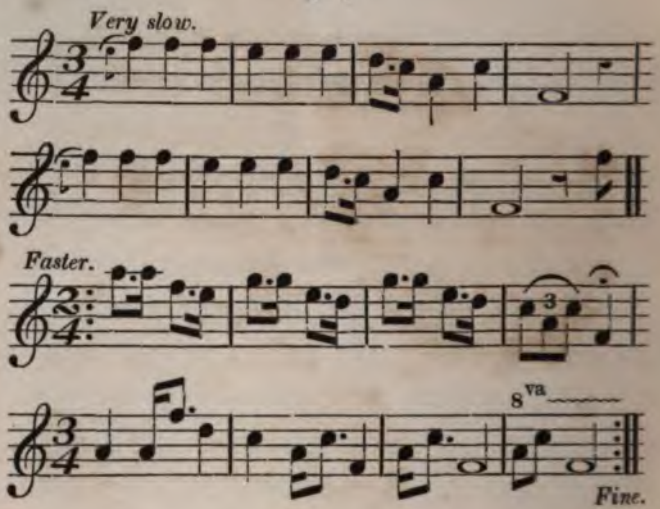

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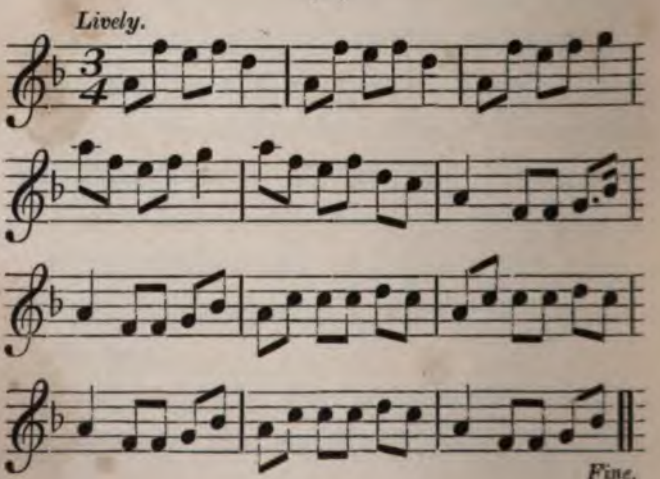

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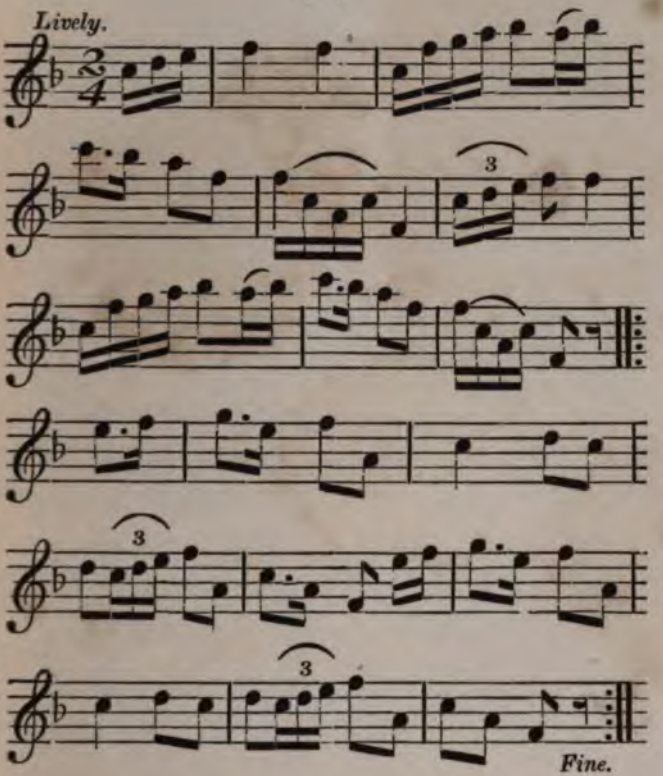


hand, the solitary man has too much; but he has no materials except those supplied by his own mind. If a hermit is less exposed to vice than the rest of mankind, who live in a constant intercourse with their fellow-creatures, he has at the same time less scope for the exercise of his virtues.

It would therefore appear that an intermediate state between these two extremes is the one best calculated for supplying the materials and the leisure requisite for reflection, and also for eliciting the moral virtues, whereon the greatest happiness of which man is capable of enjoying can alone be founded.

Such reflections as these often passed through my mind during my solitude, and though my situation was attended with its peculiar advantages and enjoyments, I felt also that these must soon find their limits, and that I could not exist for any length of time without society and useful occupation. I could not leave my habitation to procure servants, lest I should lose any of the cattle entrusted to my charge; and I also well knew that the Dutch farmers near me, from their jealousy of the English,

would have been the last to afford me any assistance.

At length, some Scotchmen employed in sawing timber, at nine miles distance, who had always been ready to serve me, hearing that my people had departed, kindly offered to take care of my house and cattle, until I could hire other servants. I determined, however, to secure myself from being left without assistance for the future.

There was a half-pay officer, who formerly resided about twenty-five miles from my place, and who had often come to see me at the Groote Valley. He had lately been obliged to sell his farm, and was now living at the town of Uitenhage, where he had great difficulty in supporting his large family in a respectable manner. I immediately rode to see him, and offered him a half-share in the profits of my farm if he would come and live with me. He gladly accepted my proposal, and soon joined me at the Groote Valley, with his family and two hired Hottentots.

From this time, I was much more comfortable. Mrs. S——, who was an excellent wo-

man, managed our household concerns with great economy and prudence, and S—— and I took our turns at ploughing, and in superintending the other farming operations.

We enclosed several acres of ground near the house with a ditch and bank, and sowed it with wheat and Indian corn. We also cultivated plenty of French-beans, potatoes, pumpkins, and other vegetables. As soon as we had sufficient leisure, we built an additional wing to the house, and S. and I felled the necessary timber in the forest, and sawed it up ourselves into beams and planks. We, in short, worked hard and lived comfortably; but, from the badness of our wheat crops, on account of the continuance of the disease called the "rust," we earned little excepting by the increase of our cattle, and the butter we sold at Uitenhage. Had we possessed sufficient capital to stock the farm with our own cattle, we should have done much better.

Poor S. had been exceedingly unfortunate. He was formerly a midshipman in the royal navy, and had been appointed to the command of an armed colonial vessel, which was

employed by the Governor of Senegal in preventing the slave-trade on the west coast of Africa. S. had fought three or four desperate actions with the slave-ships, and taken a great number of vessels, and his share of the prize-money would have amounted to several thousand pounds.

However, it seemed that the governor had been acting without the authority of the British Government, and many of the ships were not condemned when they arrived in England. Thus poor S. had received little or nothing for all his hard fighting and zeal in his employment; but, as some small compensation, the governor had procured him a commission in the Royal African Corps, with which regiment he came to the Cape.

One great advantage I enjoyed by my present arrangement was, that I could go from home with the confidence that everything was going on well in my absence. This more than compensated me for the small sacrifice I had made, and I had the satisfaction of being able to serve my friend's interest at the same time.

I had long been desirous of taking a trip into Kaffreland, and at length an opportunity occurred of gratifying my curiosity. The clergyman and the schoolmaster of Uitenhage, who were both Scotchmen, were also desirous of visiting the Kaffres and the Missionary establishments in their country, and I gladly agreed to accompany them.

We started from Groote Valley on horseback, and after riding six miles through the forest by following the elephant-paths, we reached the open district on the other side, and continued our journey to Grahamstown, by Jager's Drift on the Bosjesman's river.

After remaining in Grahamstown for a day or two to see our friends, we set off early in the morning to "Hermann's kraal," on the Fish river, where we lunched with Lieutenant S—, who commanded the military post stationed there. We crossed the Fish river just in time, for we had hardly reached the other side when it swelled to such a degree, in consequence of the rains in the interior, that it became impassable for several days. This rise in the stream took place so suddenly that we could see the

flood descending, heaped up, as it were, some feet above the general level of the water, and we were obliged to make the best of our way across.

Nothing can be wilder and more romantic than the scenery along the Fish river near Hermann's kraal. The steep rocky faces of the hills are everywhere covered with low wood and bushes, and here and there might be seen a lofty euphorbium shooting up its tall white trunk and green angular branches. We ascended from the deep bed of the river by a long ridge with a precipice on one side of it, the base of which was washed by the Fish river.

We saw a few elephants in a distant ravine. Their numbers, however, are now much reduced, from their being so much disturbed and hunted by the Hottentots and English sportsmen. Mr. Cowper Rose, of the Royal Engineers, has recently described several of the feats he saw some of the English hunters perform in this neighbourhood. Two of these daring men, who had become almost insensible to fear by long practice, had some time before paid me

a visit at my former place at Hoy, where they shot several elephants, but had some very narrow escapes in consequence of their being unaccustomed to high woods, where they could not see the animals till they were close upon them. A few days after they left me, one of these people was killed by an elephant while hunting among the jungle on the banks of the Sunday river.

The sun had nearly sunk behind the hills when we reached the high grounds beyond the Fish river, and we had to ride several miles in the dark before we came to Fort Willshire, where we proposed to remain for the night. Here we were kindly entertained by Captain F—— of the 55th regiment, with whom I had formerly served in Holland in 1814, but had never met since that time.

Fort Willshire stands on the banks of the Kuskamma, where this river, which is one of the largest in the colony, spreads itself into a kind of lake, in consequence of its being obstructed in its course by rocks a little lower down. The opposite side of the stream, which is inhabited by the Kaffres, is bounded by

steep high banks, covered with wood nearly to the top.

The next day being one of the two days in the week appointed by the governor for holding fairs with the Kaffres, as soon as it was daylight we saw great numbers of these people collecting in swarthy groups before the fort, carrying dried bullocks' hides, elephants' tusks, "assagays," or light javelins, baskets, mats, &c. to exchange with the English traders for glass and metal beads, thick brass wire, which the Kaffres wear round their arms and wrists for bracelets,—tinder-boxes, knives and other articles.

To prevent the demoralizing and destructive effects which are the usual results of intemperate habits gaining ground among savages, no intoxicating liquors are allowed to be sold to these people, who, being less industrious and less provident than civilized men, are generally supposed to be more prone to fall into this degrading vice. However laudable the motive may be for this restriction, I cannot help entertaining great doubts as to the

correctness of the reasoning on which it is founded.

If savages are more improvident and less capable of self-restraint than civilized men, they, at the same time, from their want of industry, have not the means of indulging habitually in excesses of this kind. Even admitting that these restrictions are beneficial in principle, it is almost impossible to enforce them. The only effectual mode by which the natural propensity of savages to indulgence in intoxicating liquors can be combated, is by increasing *their other wants*, by the introduction among them of cheap and useful articles of clothing, ornament, or innocent luxury. When these wants, which will at first be considered by them as mere luxuries, are fully established, their means of indulging in pernicious and intoxicating drinks will be proportionally limited.

Many well-meaning people are exceedingly shocked at the idea of our traders being allowed to supply the Kaffres with glass beads, and other things of mere ornament, in exchange for articles which possess intrinsic value and

utility. They forget that a taste for ornaments is the first incentive to rouse savage nations from their habitual indolence.

The Kaffres, in their present state, have all that they consider necessary to their comfort; and were it not for this love of ornament, which is deeply implanted in the minds of the whole human race, they would have no motive whatever to increase their industry. As these beads or other ornaments become common, they decrease in value, and others of a different colour or shape are sought after.

In the mean time, though these articles lose their first value among the tribes near the frontiers of the colony, they are still eagerly sought after by the more remote tribes, with whom they are exchanged for cattle, skins, ivory, and other useful commodities. Thus trifling and useless ornaments and baubles gradually become the current money among the different savage races of the interior, promote the mutual exchange of their commodities, and sow the first germs of civilization among them.

We were much struck with the easy and noble carriage of the Kaffre men. In general

their only clothing was a softened bullock's hide, cut in an oval shape, and wrapped loosely round their shoulders. The Kaffres are elegantly formed, and are so exceedingly graceful in their general demeanour that they appear to be a nation of gentlemen. In their manners they are respectful without servility, and possess a native delicacy, which prevents them from giving offence by word or action. There is no perceptible difference to be observed in their manners from the chief to the poorest of the tribe. Property, in fact, is much more equally distributed among the Kaffres than in civilized societies.

Thus jealousy, envy, and hatred, which destroy harmony between the different members of European communities, are in a great measure prevented. This constitutes the happiness of the infant state of society; and, if we may judge by the free and cheerful manners which characterize the Kaffres, we may conclude that they are a happy people. The Kaffre women are inferior in appearance to the men. This is occasioned by their being obliged to work for their husbands, who only

assist them in enclosing their patches of Indian corn and millet, and in milking the cows. All the labour of digging the ground, constructing huts, and a variety of other employments, falls to the share of the females.

Polygamy is common among the Kaffres, but it is confined to the more wealthy—that is, to those who possess the greatest number of cattle. Their wives are always purchased from their parents, and those who have cattle to spare often exchange them for one or more wives, according to their circumstances.

By all I have been able to learn, the practice of polygamy does not appear to be an original custom of the Kaffres, but to have been occasioned by their destructive wars with the neighbouring tribes, when great numbers of the males on both sides being killed, there remained an undue proportion of women, who would have perished from want if they had not been distributed among the men of the conquering tribe. These women are, in fact, rather the servants than the wives of the men. They are generally treated kindly by their husbands,

and appear to be happy and contented with their lot.

The Kaffres believe in a Supreme Being, but their notions of a future state are vague and undecided. They generally swear by the spirit of their father, or by their chief. They sometimes pray also when they are sick. They always circumcise the boys when they are twelve or fourteen years of age; but they have no idea of the object of the practice, or whence they derived it.

Like the Jews and Mahometans, they have a decided aversion to the flesh of swine, and can never be persuaded to partake of it. They are also said to have a dislike to all kinds of fish, except shell-fish. This accounts for their having no boats or canoes; no nets, or other fishing tackle, which they do not want skill to construct.

The form of government which prevails among them is simple, and well adapted to their habits. Their chiefs are hereditary, but are not absolute. No important measure is ever undertaken without the advice and consent of their counsellors. These counsellors are

all inferior or subordinate chieftains, who command the different subdivisions of the tribe, and are usually denominated "Humraden" by the Dutch.

The whole population in the Kaffre country are divided into "kraals," or hamlets, containing from ten to twenty families, each occupying separate huts. There is always a petty chieftain, or counsellor, stationed at these kraals, who exercises a kind of patriarchal authority over the people, settles their disputes, and occasionally assists at the grand assemblies, or *parliaments* of the tribe. The chief, by a kind of legal fiction, if I may use the expression, is supposed to be the original possessor of all the lands and cattle within his territories. This pretended right, for it is seldom if ever acted upon, and several of the usages among the Kaffres seem to prove that they are descended from a more cultivated race, where civil government has made greater progress.

The Kaffres have no fixed right of property in the lands they occupy, except to the patches they have enclosed for cultivation, all the rest being held in common by the different families

of which the kraal or hamlet consists, and used as grazing grounds for their cattle. They have not yet arrived at that stage of improvement when the lands are appropriated, and descend from father to son in particular families. This will naturally follow the increase of population, when the people can no longer procure a sufficient subsistence from the produce of their flocks.

In the mean time the chiefs, to be beforehand with their subjects, are anxious to establish a right of property in the soil while it is not likely to be disputed. As I have already stated in a former chapter, I believe that an increase in the power of the chiefs, even amounting to a degree of arbitrary authority, is the first step towards the civilization of a barbarous people. The Kaffres are rapidly approaching to this state. The power of their chiefs is nearly absolute in some cases with respect to individuals, but very small in matters which equally concern the whole tribe.

Though they have no written laws, they have certain long established principles and usages which have almost equal authority among them,

any infraction of which on the part of the chiefs would be strenuously opposed by their subjects at large. Thus, when the avarice or tyranny of the chief leads him to form any scheme of oppression against an individual, he is obliged to avail himself of the prejudices or superstitions of the rest of the people to effect his object. The Kaffre chief are only to be distinguished from the poorest of their subjects by the number of their cattle. No individual is allowed to kill any of his cattle without the permission of the chief, who invariably claims a part of the carcass as his just right.

The Kaffres are great believers in witchcraft, and when any one is seized with a malady which will not yield to the remedies prescribed by their female doctors, it is usually attributed to the malice of some neighbour. This horrible superstition is artfully encouraged by the chief, who is always the gainer by the conviction of the offender, in which case, the latter is generally put to death, and his or her cattle confiscated and divided into two equal shares, — one half being assigned to the suffering party, and the other half seized by the chief.

Some of the chiefs, to increase their authority, pretend to have the power of bringing rain to moisten the ground in seasons of long continued drought. If their predictions happen to be fulfilled, their character is established, and they are distinguished by the title of "rain-makers;"—but if they fail, the blame is thrown on the wickedness of the people.

The Kaffres are a very superior race of barbarians—I cannot call them savages—in point of intellect; and the softness and copiousness of their language indicate a considerable degree of cultivation and reflection. I have been informed by the missionaries that they have no less than five or six names for the Supreme Being. Their reasoning faculties are powerful and active, and unlike the Hottentots, whose weakness of judgment and supine credulity incline them to believe everything, the Kaffre will credit nothing that he is not fairly reasoned into.

The Kaffres are frugal and even avaricious in their habits, and are extremely unwilling to part with their cattle. Though they think it no great crime to steal from the colonists, they

have a strong principle of honour and fidelity when trusted. Their hospitality and kindness to strangers are unbounded. In their domestic habits both sexes are exceedingly chaste and modest, and infidelity on the part of a wife is often punished with death to the offending party. The women, as with the Hottentots and other African tribes, always eat their meals apart from the men.

The Kaffres, notwithstanding the softness and beauty of their language, have not that natural genius for music for which the Hottentots are remarkable; and their native melodies are consequently deficient in variety, and are extremely monotonous, being merely repetitions of three or four notes. They have, however, a number of songs in their language, which, from the translations I have heard of them, exhibit feeling and poetical genius. In their deliberations in the councils of their tribe, they are strict observers of propriety and decorum, and often show great natural eloquence and acuteness in their reasonings.

Our time not permitting us to remain to witness the Kaffre fair, after breakfast we conti-

nued our journey to the Scotch missionary sta-
:ion called Lovedale, in Kaffreland. My friend
Captain F. kindly procured us a native guide,
and accompanied us to a ford on the 'Keis-
kamma, a few miles above the fort.

As soon as we entered the Kaffre territory, a new and enlivening scene awaited us. Every Kaffre we met on our way came up to us in the most frank and easy manner and shook us cordially by the hand; yet without the slightest appearance of vulgar confidence, or forwardness. They evidently showed by their demeanour, which was at once graceful and modest, that they considered us their superiors, but that they felt, at the same time, they were freemen and were entitled to address us on terms of equality.

Few of the men we saw in the fields had any covering whatever, excepting a little leathern bag, from which a long thong depended half way down the thigh, ornamented with brass beads. This little bag, with its singular decorations, is assumed by the young men on arriving at adolescence, and may be considered as a kind of *toga virilis*. Their necks, wrists,

and ankles were ornamented with bright brass rings, which had a fine effect contrasted with their black skins. Many of them also wore a band of leather round their temples, vandyked with beads in a very tasteful manner like a crown. They all carried several "assagays," or light javelins in their hands. These elegant missiles are about five feet in length, and the iron heads are very neatly finished, when we consider that their only tools are stones of different shapes for hammers, and a flat stone for an anvil.

Several of the Kaffres, I observed, were perfect models of symmetry. Their legs, in particular, were beautifully turned, being muscular without angularity, and there is a peculiar ease and dignity in the formation and carriage of the head and neck. The body is also finely shaped, but somewhat slight in proportion to the legs. They have little of the negro in their features, except the complexion, which is not quite so swarthy. Their arms are more remarkable for elegance than muscularity; and they are decidedly inferior, in point of strength, to those of Europeans in general. The strength

of a Kaffre lies in his legs, and though these people are not particularly remarkable for speed, they are capable of enduring very long journeys with little fatigue.

As we approached any of the "kraals," the head man, or petty chieftain, always came to meet us, accompanied by one of his attendants carrying an earthen pot full of thick milk to regale us. The Kaffres seldom use sweet milk, but pour it into leathern bags, where it becomes very thick and sour, and in this state it is found to be more healthy and refreshing in warm weather. The earthen pots are formed of the fine clay taken from ant-hills, and hardened in the fire. The Kaffres also make baskets of a kind of rush. These baskets are so close in their texture that they are often used for holding water and milk.

Millet, Indian corn, beans, pumpkins, and thick milk, form the principal subsistence of the Kaffres; for they are too economical to kill any of their cattle except in cases of necessity, or on occasions of rejoicing, such as marriages, or when the youths are first admitted into the society of the men.

If we happened to give any beads away at the kraals, we were generally assailed with the importunities of a number of women and children, who followed us for several hundred yards entreating us with their most winning graces for "basella," or presents. This annoyance, however, was only met with near the borders of the colony, where the Kaffres have most intercourse with Europeans.

We passed through a very picturesque country, abounding in good pasturage and cattle; and, towards the evening we reached a "kraal" where a number of Kaffres of both sexes were engaged in celebrating the marriage of their petty chieftain, or head man. To judge by the mirth and jollity of the assembly, one would have been led to suppose that they measured the bridegroom's happiness by the number of his wives, which now amounted to four or five.

The men, who were quite naked, were arranged in several lines, like soldiers, with their "assagays" in their hands. At a given signal, they began jumping in the air in succession without quitting their ranks, shouting and humming a

few wild notes in a deep voice. The women were drawn up at a hundred yards distance; they sang, clapped their hands, beat a kind of rude drum made of a calabash, and showed every token of the most extravagant joy. The moment the chieftain saw us he came forward with a smiling countenance and welcomed us most cordially with a hearty shake of the hand. Without our asking for it, a large basket of sour milk was handed up to us as we sat on horseback; and we were invited to dismount and share in the feast which they were preparing from a bullock they had killed for the occasion. We, however, declined their kind invitation, and pushed on to reach Lovedale before dark.

CHAPTER XIII.

Picturesque situation of Lovedale.—Account of the Missionary Station.—A communicative Companion.—Anecdote of a Missionary and a Kaffre Chief.—System of Education.—Performance of Divine Service.—Visit to Kaffre Huts.—Smith's double Bellows described.—Fashion of the Assagays.—Singular Snuffbox.—Journey to the Tchumic Mountains.—Visit to another Missionary Station.—Hospitality of Mr. T——.—Excursion to Tzatzoe's Kraal.—The Chief Gaika.—Friendly Reception at the Kraals.—A happy People.—Delightful Scenery.—Extensive Plain.—Fatiguing Journey.—The Buffalo River.—Bad Soil.—Frequent Hunting Parties.—Barbarous Treatment of the Sick.—Kaffre Customs.

LOVEDALE is situated in a picturesque valley, sprinkled with mimosas and clumps of small trees, and surrounded by high rocky hills. The habitations of the missionaries, which consisted of low wattled huts, were erected in a square, and communicated with each other. They had made tolerable gardens, and appeared to live very comfortably, being well provided

with all the necessaries, and even some of the luxuries of life. They received us with all the cordiality and hospitality which could be expected from Scotchmen meeting their countrymen in this remote situation.

There were two married missionaries, and some young mechanics, who assisted in teaching the Kaffres in their schools. Each family had its separate apartments; but they all met together in the evening in the church, or school-room, where one of the qualified preachers addressed the Kaffres with the aid of an interpreter. At first, we observed nothing particular in their manners, but before dinner an expression of gloom and austerity gradually overspread the countenances of the family, which was followed by a half-mile grace, delivered in a sad and desponding tone of voice, and we sat down to our meal as if we were about to commit some heinous crime, for which we could scarcely hope for forgiveness. This, however, did not prevent any of the party from making a hearty use of the "creature comforts," which Providence, and the kindness of our entertainers, had placed before us; and as

our "sinful bodies" became distended with the "mercies," the cheerfulness of our countenances was gradually restored.

There was no vain mirth; and our conversation never took a general turn, being confined almost exclusively to the subjects most connected with the objects of the mission. Our dinner was followed by excellent Scotch whiskey, and the needful auxiliaries in making punch, or "toddy," as it is called in Scotland.

Our entertainer, Mr. R——, was an exceedingly intelligent and sensible man, and gave us a great deal of interesting information regarding the Kaffres. His reasoning on this important subject, though it was strongly tinctured with the narrow and severe tenets of the Presbyterians, showed that the whole powers of his mind had been long and anxiously exerted in his calling. I was much indebted to his kindness and patience, in answering a variety of questions regarding the manners and customs of the Kaffres, many of which had no direct reference to the all-important subject—their conversion to Christianity. He even favoured us with some curious anecdotes,

highly illustrative of the character of this acute and shrewd people.

I do not exactly remember whether Mr. R—— related the following anecdote, but I trust it will not be considered out of place here: One of the missionaries in Kaffreland had long been exerting his oratorical powers in endeavouring to convert one of the principal chiefs, whom he found very unwilling to believe what he could not understand. On a particular occasion he told the Kaffre, that the Supreme Being was omnipotent, and that there were no bounds to his goodness; but that there was, at the same time, an adverse power, who continually endeavoured to counteract his gracious intentions towards man, by hardening his heart, and filling his mind with evil thoughts; and he concluded by saying, that he believed the difficulty the missionaries experienced in converting the Kaffres was chiefly to be attributed to the influence of the Devil.

The chief listened to what he said with profound attention till he began to speak of the Devil, when he raised his hand to his face to conceal a laugh; but instantly resuming his

gravity, he turned to the missionary, and addressed him in words to the following effect:— "You tell me that your God can do what he likes, and that he is good. All this I can readily believe; but then you say that the Devil prevents us from being converted to your religion. Now, it appears to me, that if you would first pray to God to convert the Devil, you would then have little difficulty in converting us."

In the evening we accompanied the missionaries to the church, where a number of Kaffres of both sexes were assembled. Nothing can be more laborious than the mode of instruction they are obliged to adopt, in consequence of the great difficulty they experience in acquiring the native language. Not being able to procure interpreters who understand English, the preacher is obliged to deliver his sermons in Cape Dutch, which the interpreter translates sentence by sentence, into the Kaffre language. The worst of it is, that the missionaries have generally a very slight knowledge of Dutch, and the interpreter, besides labouring under a similar disadvantage, has a very imperfect

knowledge of their *meaning*, and often makes sad blunders, which are not likely to escape the notice of the shrewd Kaffres.

After the sermon was finished, a hymn was sung in the Kaffre language, which was succeeded by a prayer of one of the congregation in the same language, and the service was concluded with another hymn. The Kaffres behaved with great propriety, and sat wrapped up in their skins, with their heads resting on their hands, apparently absorbed in thought. Their singing was much inferior to that of the Hottentots, and the men had generally a deep bass voice, in which they differ from the Hottentot men, whose voices are naturally higher pitched. Some of the more promising of the assembly uttered sundry deep groans during the sermon, not always, indeed, in the best places, and many fell asleep, but were jogged by their more attentive neighbours. Before supper my fellow traveller, Mr. S——, was requested to deliver a prayer, which was as devout as it was long.

On the following morning, after a long prayer, a long grace, and a long breakfast, we

visited the Kaffre huts on the establishment. In one of them a native smith was at work, making "assagays," in the manner I have before alluded to, and which merits a particular description. The double bellows was the most curious part of the apparatus. It was formed of two goatskins, which were stripped from the carcasses of the goats in such a manner that they formed leather bags, open at both ends. The neck parts of the two skins were fixed into a common tube, made of a straight bullock's horn. The openings at the opposite ends of the skins were contracted to narrow apertures, and short pieces of sticks sewed to them in such a manner that they may be opened and shut at pleasure by the thumb and fingers of each hand in succession.

A charcoal fire is kindled on one side of an anthill or lump of clay, which is perforated with a horizontal hole. Into this hole the common tube, or horn of the double bellows, is fixed on the opposite side to the fire, and the smith's assistant sits down on the ground between the two skins, or bags. He then slips the thumb and fingers of each hand into small

loops on each side of the aperture at the loose end of each bag, and opening his right hand to allow the air to enter the bag on that side, he again closes it and thrusts his arm forward, which forces the air through the tube. Before the air is all forced out of the bag on his right, he closes the aperture of the left-hand bag, and pushes the other arm forward in the same manner, and thus keeps up a constant blast through the common tube, which communicates with the furnace.

We saw the smith make several assagays in a very short time, with stones of different shapes for hammers. He had several thin bars of iron, which he beat out till they were of the proper thickness, upon his stone anvil, and then formed the point of the assagay in a very dexterous manner with his rude hammer. In forming the groove on each side of the head, or blade of the weapon, he used a flat round-edged shore-stone. The assagays are fashioned in a variety of ways, according to the uses to which they are applied. Most of them were made without shanks, to be used in war, or for killing small animals; others were formed with

long shanks, for killing elephants or buffaloes, and some were barbed and notched in a very curious manner. These iron heads are fixed into long tapering sticks about four feet in length.

By means of the singular bellows I have just described, the Kaffres can smelt out the iron from the ore, which is found in great abundance between Lovedale and the Buffalo river. There is great reason to believe, from the narratives of recent travellers, that this simple bellows is used by most of the native tribes in the interior of Africa, and it is probably of great antiquity among them.

The Kaffres, as well as the neighbouring tribes of the interior, are passionately fond of snuff. Most of them carry snuffboxes, made of small calabashes, suspended round their necks. They have also another kind of snuff-box, made of the scrotum of a calf, which is filled with clay and dried in the sun to harden it. They are exceedingly attached to their cattle, and take great pleasure in twisting their horns into a variety of fantastic shapes. Sometimes they bend one down and the other up.

The horns of others are made to grow straight out in a line with the animal's forehead, like those of the "eland" antelope. I have been informed that this is effected by scraping the horn with a knife on that side to which they wish it to bend.

After spending two days at Lovedale, we proceeded to visit another Scotch missionary station, at the distance of twelve miles, under the Tchumic mountains, and near the river of the same name. The scenery became exceedingly beautiful and romantic as we approached the station, where a small village has been formed in a kind of amphitheatre at the base of the mountain.

The Tchumic mountain, which rises to the height of at least fifteen hundred feet above the village, is covered with a broad belt of wood along the base; but higher up its steep sides it is clothed with verdure to the summit, which terminates in rugged and perpendicular crags. This missionary station, notwithstanding the great beauty of the scenery around it, has been selected with little judgment, the soil being extremely poor and thin, and the extent

of pasturage limited on one side by the mountains.

Most of the habitations of the Kaffres on the establishment were the common bee-hive huts used by the rest of their nation; but there were a few wattled dwellings of a better description, which they had been persuaded to erect by the missionaries. Mr. T——, the principal missionary and government agent, occupied a neat cottage, constructed with much taste of similar materials. This gentleman was a person of liberal education, excellent abilities, and, in common with the other members of his society, had very unpretending manners. He received us with the most cordial hospitality, and being naturally of a cheerful and lively temper, his conversation embraced a greater variety of topics, and was less tinctured with the peculiarities of his sect and profession than might have been expected.

After spending a day at the Tchumic, we set off early in the morning to visit a station of the London Missionary Society, at Tzatzoe's kraal, near the Buffalo river, which is between forty and fifty miles from Lovedale. We travel-

led along the base of an extensive chain of lofty mountains thickly clothed with fine woods to their summits. The scenery in this part of Kaffreland is more varied if not more romantic than in any part of the colony I had seen. The mountains are more detached from each other, and have less uniformity in their general outline, and the numerous inhabitants in their picturesque attire greatly contribute to the pleasure of the traveller.

We passed the kraal of the chief Gaika, who many years ago was described in very favourable terms by Mr. Barrow, but is now well-known to the colonists as a debased sensualist, who is in the habit of prostituting his wives to his visiters for brandy. Gaika is, or rather was, —for I have heard that he is dead,—a man of great talent and profound cunning. Most of the cattle which have been stolen from the colony have been traced to his kraals; but by his art he has generally managed to throw the blame on some of the neighbouring tribes. He is noted for never giving a direct answer to any question that is put to him.

All the Kaffre chiefs are descended from

one family and they hold a nominal authority in proportion to their relationship to Hinza, who is considered to stand highest among them. Gaika holds the next in point of rank and power, but the inferior chiefs consider themselves quite independent of them, though they acknowledge their superiority in rank.

We were welcomed in the most friendly manner at the different kraals in our way, and supplied with abundance of thick milk. I was much amused at one of them by the device one of the Kaffres hit upon to procure some beads. He selected one of the comeliest of his wives, whose entreaties he thought would be irresistible. She was really a very pretty woman, and possessed a liveliness of expression mixed with a confiding simplicity and native grace which would have softened the heart of a stoic. As soon as the Kaffre saw that the eloquent language of her sparkling eyes had produced the desired effect on my serious companion, he chucked her under the chin in the most endearing manner, and ran forward and kissed Mr. S——'s hands and feet to show his gratitude.

Judging from the cheerful and contented appearance of these people wherever we came, we could not but consider them among the happiest of the human race. The countenance of my companion, who was a truly excellent man, though it could not resist the exhilarating influence of the careless and happy faces around him, frequently assumed a serious and saddening expression when he considered that these honest and kind-hearted people could be happy without any knowledge of the original sinfulness of their nature and of the only way by which they might hope to escape eternal punishment hereafter. They appeared to him like the flies playing round a candle till they were consumed in the flame.

At one of the kraals, we saw a number of youths confined within a small inclosure surrounding a hut, where they were obliged to remain apart from the rest of the people for a certain time until they were considered in the light of men. They were hideously painted with white clay all over the body.

In the course of our journey, we crossed a rapid stream called the Amatoli, which de-

scended from a long valley between the mountains. The romantic and varied beauties of this delightful valley exceeded any scenery of the kind I had ever witnessed in the colony, or in other countries. The steep sides of the mountains on either hand were densely wooded to a great height, and overtopped with perpendicular crags, the summits of which were crowned with beautiful trees and brushwood.

In the back-ground an extensive forest spread itself over the face of the highest part of the mountain range, which was also girt with rocks and precipices. The lovely glen between the mountains was partially wooded or sprinkled with groups of thorn trees, and here and there we observed a few scattered Kaffre huts, and patches of cultivation on the rising grounds near the banks of the Amatoli, which could be traced by the eye for several miles, winding its varied course among the mimosas. I thought I should never be satiated with gazing at this delightful prospect; and even now, after several years have passed away, I think I see it pictured as vividly before me as when I first beheld it.

We next passed over an extensive plain at the foot of the mountains, where there were fewer habitations than we met with in the first part of our journey. The surface of the plain was everywhere broken with round holes two or three feet in depth, at the bottom of which we observed a hard crust of rich iron ore. It is hard to say whether these holes are natural or artificial. They may possibly have been excavated by the Kaffres to obtain iron for their assagays before they had any intercourse with Europeans; but if this had been the case, the Kaffre guide who rode with us had no knowledge of the fact. It is, perhaps, more probable that the ironstone has formerly lain bare, and that the grass has taken root in the cracks of the stone, and gradually created a soil which in time might produce the present singular appearance.

After a fatiguing journey, we at length reached the Buffalo river, which is a strong and rapid stream, and on fording it, came in sight of the missionary station, where we arrived as the sun was setting. We met with a most kind and hospitable welcome from Mr. B——

and another missionary, Mr. K——, who was a German by birth. We found Mr. B—— to be a man of great intelligence, and his manners had little of the sectarian peculiarities. Mr. K—— was a worthy, honest, and laborious man, without pretence or affectation. His language, however, was such a sad jumble of German and Dutch, that we had great difficulty in understanding him. He knew a little English also, but it was still more unintelligible. Their mode of instructing the Kaffres was similar to what I have already described at Lovedale.

The soil in the neighbourhood of the station was exceedingly hard and dry, so that the Kaffres on the establishment were obliged to use iron hoes in turning over the ground in their gardens. To remedy this disadvantage, the missionaries had made great exertions to lead out the Buffalo river, to irrigate the land for cultivation; but meeting with rocks in the course of the trench, they were obliged to desist from their undertaking for the present.

Where the soil is sufficiently moist, the Kaffres use wooden spades, resembling paddles, to

dig their gardens. They are exceedingly judicious in selecting those spots for their gardens which are least likely to suffer from drought. I particularly observed that most of them were situated on the shady sides of the hills, and they care little for the steepness of the ground, provided there is sufficient moisture for their crops. Those who live near the forests fell the trees in patches along the margin, where they know the soil is particularly rich, for they never use manure.

The antelopes and other small game have now become exceedingly scarce in Kaffreland, having been almost entirely destroyed in frequent hunting parties. When a chief wishes to have a hunt, he sends to all his people to assemble at a particular spot, when they spread themselves far and wide over the country, forming a large circle, which is gradually contracted till the game are inclosed within a narrow space, where they kill great numbers with their assagays, which they can throw fifty or sixty yards. They also show great dexterity in throwing the "kurie," which is a stick with a large knob on the end of it. In hunting the elephant, they

are obliged to assemble in great numbers, and when they find one by himself, they pierce him with hundreds of assagays until he sinks from loss of blood. On these occasions, two or three of the Kaffres are generally killed by the enraged animal; but the chief who has ordered the hunt considers this a matter of small importance.

The Kaffres have a particular horror of a dead body, and when any one of the inhabitants of a kraal is so ill that they do not expect him to recover, they dig a hole in the ground at some distance from their habitations, and lay the sick person in it with some provisions, and there he remains till his dissolution or the hyenas devour him. Should one of their people die in his hut, the whole kraal is instantly deserted for ever. When a chief dies, however, he is generally buried in the enclosure or kraal where the cattle are kept at night; but when he falls in battle, it is not uncommon to cover the body with a small tumulus or heap of stones to preserve it from the wild animals. This is, no doubt, the origin of the tumuli among the Celtic and Teutonic races, which are so com-

mon in some parts of Europe. The custom of deserting their kraals when any one dies in his hut is now getting into disuse among several of the Kaffre tribes; but they are extremely careful to avoid touching the corpse with their hands, in dragging it away to be devoured by the hyenas.

On making particular inquiries regarding this custom, I was informed that the Kaffres had formerly always buried their dead; but that several years ago an infectious disease, or plague, had broken out among them and carried off great numbers, and since that time they had been afraid to touch a dead body.

CHAPTER XIV.

Return to Grahamstown.—Female Doctor.—Costume of the Chief Gaika.—The Kaffre Helen.—Extortions of Gaika.—Cases of Theft.—Kaffre Ceremonies.—Questions put by Mr. S——.—Journey to Lovedale.—System of Conversion pursued by the Missionaries.—Gloom of the People at the Missionary Stations.—Errors of the Missionaries—Their Prejudices.—Education and Civilization.—Introduction of Christianity.—Reasons of Improvement.—Conduct of the Missionaries.—Hints to them.

After spending a day at Tzatzoe's kraal, Mr. S—— and I set out on our return to Grahamstown, and were accompanied a few miles by Mr. B——, the principal missionary. We stopped for half an hour at the hut of the son of the chief Tzatzoe. We found this young man stretched out on his skins on the ground, in the last stage of consumption.

As we entered his hut, he sat up and received us very cheerfully. The clay floor of his tenement was covered with earthen pots,

containing decoctions which had been prepared for him by one of the female doctors, who pretended that she could cure his disease. Finding, however, that her remedies had no effect, to save her credit, she accused one of the young chief's wives of having bewitched him; and the innocent woman had, in consequence, been obliged to seek her safety by fleeing to some of her relations in a distant part of the country.

As we proceeded on our journey, we met the chief Gaika, to whom I have already alluded, on his way to the missionary station we had just left. The old man's appearance was far from prepossessing; for there was an expression of moral debasement and low cunning in his countenance which gave him more the air of a runaway slave than that of an independent and high-spirited chief. He wore an old shabby white hat and a pair of leathern trowsers, after the fashion of the colonial Hottentots; and, to show his rank among his people, he also had a leopard-skin * "carosse," or cloak, thrown over his shoulders, which had no other covering.

* The Kaffre chiefs always wear a leopard's skin, to distinguish them from the rest of the people.

This motley dress, which is often assumed by the Kaffre chiefs, almost completely destroys the native dignity of their appearance, and lowers them in the estimation of the colonists, by assimilating them to the two most degraded classes, the slaves and the Hottentots. Gaika, besides several attendants, was accompanied by his son Makomo, a daring and intriguing young chief, who has lately become well known to the colonists, and by one of his favourite wives. He had some years before carried off this woman from some neighbouring chief, which had occasioned a long and general war among the Kaffre tribes in the neighbourhood of the colony; in which Gaika was victorious, and retained the fair subject of contention.

The appearance of this Kaffre Helen, whose features were of the most homely description, seemed by no means to justify the bloodshed she had occasioned. Beauty, however, is only a comparative term, and the difficulty of attainment of the object generally constitutes a large portion of what is usually termed *love*: so we need not wonder much at King Gaika's taste.

Mr. B—— informed us that Gaika was in the habit of going his rounds occasionally among the Kaffre tribes in the neighbourhood, over whom he had gained considerable influence, and of begging cattle from them. He sometimes succeeded in collecting a considerable number of cattle in this way; for his power was so great, compared to that of the other chiefs, that many of them thought it most prudent to yield to his demands, rather than that their cattle should be stolen by his people.

On the present occasion he had been particularly unsuccessful in levying his "benevolences." He lamented his bad luck to us, and used it as an argument for our giving him some presents. This request we were by no means disposed to comply with; and he proceeded sulkily on his journey, followed by his attendants driving a few miserable-looking cattle, which he had extorted from the unwilling Kaffres.

Horses are very scarce in the Kaffre country, only a few of the chiefs being possessed of them. Gaika had for a long time fixed his heart on a riding-horse belonging to Mr. B——,

and had for several months previously to our visit to Tzatzoe's kraal, paid the missionary occasional visits to induce him to make him a present of the coveted animal. Mr. B—— had every reason to expect that some of Gaika's people would steal his horse; but he was by no means disposed to make a virtue of necessity, and he knew the character of this rapacious Kaffre too well to afford him such a dangerous precedent. The missionaries frequently have their horses and cattle stolen by Gaika's people; but when they are able to trace them to the kraals of that chief, he is generally obliged to restore them, though he always pretends to have no hand in the theft.

Soon after we parted with Gaika and Mr. B——, who returned with him to the Buffalo river, in descending into a beautiful little valley on the banks of a branch of the Keiskamma, we came in sight of a Kaffre kraal, where the people were performing the ceremony of admitting a number of youths into the society of the men of the tribe.

Nothing could be more grotesque and hideous than the appearance of the youths. Their faces

and bodies were bedaubed all over with white and red clay; and they had huge bundles of rushes, or water-flags, suspended round their middles from a girdle hanging half-way down their thighs. Their heads were also ornamented with bundles of stiff flags, which stuck out two or three feet behind them. Each of them carried a long thin wand, with which they belaboured the children whenever they came within their reach, as they slowly waddled about, almost sinking under the weight of their ornaments. They were never allowed to rest for a moment, but followed each other in a long procession, attended by crowds of children, teasing and taunting them continually. The women were collected in a mass at a little distance, beating their drums, clapping their hands, laughing, singing, and yelling.

As soon as we approached the mirthful scene, the chieftain of the kraal came and shook hands with us very cordially, and offered us sour milk to drink. He was a remarkably well-proportioned man, about six feet six inches in height. His countenance was highly expressive of benevolence and good humour. He led his little

granddaughter by the hand, whom he caressed from time to time, and was much delighted when we took notice of her.

From the moment we first beheld the curious ceremony which was acting before us, I observed that the countenance of my companion, Mr. S——, assumed a melancholy expression; and he lamented the ignorant and degraded condition of the Kaffres, whose extravagant and careless mirth seemed only to increase his sadness. I confess that the scene, ridiculous as it was, had a very different effect on myself; and I felt a secret inclination to make myself a Kaffre, and share in the general hilarity around me, in which I could see nothing but innocent enjoyment.

Mr. S—— immediately began to put a number of questions to the old chieftain through our interpreter, which he answered for some time with great candour and good humour. Among other inquiries, Mr. S—— asked him whether he had ever gone to hear the missionaries. The old man replied that he had gone once or twice, but that he could not understand what they said, and that he had therefore dis-

continued his visits, though he believed them to be good kind of people, who did him no harm.

Not satisfied with this answer, Mr. S—— assumed somewhat of a dictatorial strain in the usual style of a master questioning a truant schoolboy. The Kaffre now, for the first time, appeared a little out of humour, and told the interpreter to say to Mr. S—— that he did not want to be bothered, as he had other matters to attend to.

Taking advantage of the pause produced by this reply, I quietly suggested to my companion, "that the present occasion did not seem peculiarly favourable for obtaining a patient hearing." "That is very true," replied my zealous friend, "but we are bound to lose no opportunities of instructing." Shaking hands with the honest chieftain, and the dust from our feet, we left these happy and benighted heathens to the full enjoyment of their sports, and pursued our journey to Lovedale, where we had left our other companion, who had been too much fatigued to accompany us to the Buffalo river.

I had many opportunities in the course of this journey, and during my previous residence within the colony, to make observations on the system pursued by the missionaries, in converting the Hottentots and Kaffres to Christianity.

At all the missionary stations in Kaffreland, I could not help remarking the gloomy and desponding expression which pervaded the countenances of the people; there was no singing — no dancing — and none of that buoyancy of spirits and animation which characterize the Kaffre race in general. We cannot for a moment suppose that this can be the effect of true religion, which by purifying the heart, elevating the sentiments, and providing the highest motives of action, should rather fill the soul with cheerfulness, and promote innocent hilarity.

I soon found, however, that at all the missionary stations those innocent amusements of which the Kaffres are so fond are strictly prohibited as sinful in their nature. The natural effect of this austerity is to sink the mind in

gloom and despondency, and to render the Christian religion unamiable at first sight. From its original constitution, the human mind is incapable of being confined to one only subject of contemplation without producing weariness and disgust; and unless it be refreshed by occasional relaxation and amusements or variety of occupation, it soon loses its vigour and elasticity, and becomes melancholy and torpid.

When this circumstance is duly considered, we need not feel much surprised at the general disinclination evinced by the Kaffres for the Christian religion, which is exhibited in such unattractive colours to a lively people. It appears to me that one of the great errors into which the missionaries have fallen, is their endeavouring to effect too much at once, instead of confining themselves, in the first instance, to the simpler and more comprehensible truths of our religion.

Unfortunately, also, each sect has some peculiar dogma, which they generally inculcate in their followers, too often to the partial exclusion of the more important doctrines which

form the foundation of the creeds of all sects of Christians.

Almost all the missionaries among the Kaffres are dissenters, and each sect is ambitious of increasing the numbers of its followers; a spirit of rivalry among them is the necessary consequence of this party zeal, which, joined to that external gloom and austerity which distinguishes them all, naturally creates a further distaste for their instructions. The missionaries, with a very few exceptions, have been chosen, rather on account of their zeal than from possessing the enlarged views and knowledge of human nature which are absolutely necessary in converting barbarians.

Many of them are men of good natural talents, but they are generally uneducated; their minds are overrun with the narrow prejudices and fanatical zeal by which their different sects are distinguished; thus their intellect is obscured, and they are prevented from adopting the only probable means of effecting the important objects for which they have been selected. Their task is, indeed, a very difficult, if

not impossible one, in the present state of the Kaffre tribes, and it would be very unfair to attribute the slow progress of the work of conversion solely to the inefficiency of the missionaries: but as most of them must be fully aware of the total inadequacy of the system hitherto pursued, they should confess the truth, instead of flattering the hopes of their employers by sanguine if not exaggerated statements of their progress.

From all I have observed of the Hottentots and Kaffres, it appears to me that they can only be converted through the medium of civilization; for it seems quite impossible to make them comprehend the doctrines of the Christian religion, or to give due weight to the evidence on which it is founded, without previous education, and long-established habits of reflection and reasoning on abstract subjects.

It is true, that considerable numbers of the Hottentots within the colony have been baptized; but it should be remembered that little persuasion is requisite to induce *them* to adopt the religion of those whom they have been ac-

customed to consider their superiors, and with whom they will be raised to terms of equality on becoming Christians.

This is the simple reason for the great facility experienced in converting the Hottentots, who do not even take the trouble of starting objections to the doctrines inculcated by the missionaries, but adopt them at once without examination, much in the same way as a new fashion in any part of wearing apparel is followed in our own country, without considering whether it is better suited to our ideas of comfort or convenience than the old one.

With the Kaffres, on the contrary, the missionaries have much greater difficulties to contend with. The latter are a reasoning and independent people, who have no prejudices in favour of Christianity, and have no immediate interest to serve by adopting our religion; and it is only by argument that they are to be convinced of its truth. Though there can be little difficulty in showing them the advantages resulting from the observance of the moral duties inculcated by the Christian religion — to which the natural sense of right and wrong, implanted

originally in the human breast, bears ample testimony,—it is a very hard matter to make them believe that an all-powerful and merciful Deity would suffer his own Son to die a cruel death to make atonement for the sins of mankind.

These things are, indeed, so entirely incomprehensible in themselves that no reasonable person can be convinced of their truth but through the medium of human testimony, and our faith will be strong or weak exactly in proportion to the value we attach to historical records. Could the missionaries work miracles, like Christ and the Apostles, they would have little difficulty in converting the most barbarous nations through the medium of their senses; but as matters actually stand, they must be made acquainted with the value of human testimony as it is handed down to us by history, before anything like rational conviction can be produced in their minds. This can only be effected by education and civilization, which enlarge the mind, and enable it to reason on abstract subjects.

It is a very common opinion that the civili-

zation of barbarous races can be effected simply by converting them to Christianity. In a former part of this work, I have endeavoured to show that civilization is the natural effect of the gradual condensation of the population, which takes place in process of time in all countries, and I need not therefore repeat my arguments in this place.

There can be no doubt that Christianity brings a people to a much higher degree of civilization than they could attain without its aid; but I believe no instance can be produced of its raising a nation, or smaller society of men, from barbarous or savage condition to a state of civilization, without the active operation of other causes.

Before Christianity can be understood or received, the mind must be previously opened and enlarged by civilization and education, and we are not to believe that simple acquiescence, as in the case of the Hottentots, without examination, constitutes a genuine conversion to our religion. On the contrary, it is only to be considered as a melancholy proof of the degraded state to which their minds have been

reduced, by their long subjection to European tyranny and oppression.

The progress of the missionaries in the conversion of the Kaffres has been proportionably slow, as these people, from their mental superiority to the Hottentots, admit nothing, as I have already observed, until their minds are convinced by reasoning and reflection. But after all has been done which reasoning can effect, many of the most important truths of Christianity must be taken entirely upon trust; for the Kaffres can form no conception of the value of written testimony. The missionaries are much in the same situation as a merchant, who offers some article of great intrinsic value to a savage, such as gold or silver. If the savage be unacquainted with these articles, his eye may be fascinated with their external beauty; but if he is not made thoroughly acquainted with the uses to which they are applicable, and their exchangeable value, the same quantity of brass or tin, it is probable, would hold as high a place in his estimation. The merchant must not only prove to him that these metals are useful in themselves, but that no

other metals are equally well adapted to the purposes to which they are applied.

If little is to be expected from the exertions of the missionaries in the way of conversion to Christianity, I fear still less can be effected by their means in civilizing the savage races among whom they are placed. They may teach them to read, and tell them to work, and cover their naked bodies by means of the produce of their labour; but this is not sufficient. They must acquire new wants before they will toil for the means of gratifying them. To excite these wants, a common trader can do much more than the most laborious missionary, simply by exhibiting his wares, explaining their uses, and the quantity of labour required to purchase them.

I remember a missionary at Theopolis, in the district of Albany, honestly confessing to me in the course of conversation, that the establishment of a merchant's store or shop in that village, had done more towards civilizing the Hottentots in a few months, than all his exertions and preaching could effect in as many years. I have no wish to detract in the smallest

degree from the merits of the missionaries, who deserve the greatest praise for their zealous and persevering efforts in their calling; but I cannot, consistently with the determination I have formed to speak out my true sentiments on the subjects of which this work treats, pass over the very exaggerated statements which have been sent home regarding their progress in the civilization of the Hottentots within the colony. They have uniformly taken the whole credit of every improvement which has been effected in the condition of these people, which they must well know are chiefly to be attributed to other causes, over which they have no control.

That the Hottentots in the districts of Albany and Uitenhage have of late made considerable advances in civilization, or, in other words, in the acquisition of *wants* and *industry*, is true; but this partial improvement has taken place in consequence of the change effected in these districts by the introduction of several thousands of British settlers in 1820, which created a demand for agricultural produce, and stimulated the industry of the other

inhabitants who had hitherto led a purely pastoral life.

Before that time, the Dutch farmers wore nothing but the coarsest description of clothing, and were without many of the luxuries which are now common among them. The Hottentots, at the same period, were half naked, or clothed only in skins. All manufactured goods and groceries were exceedingly dear, as they were either brought by land from Cape Town, or procured at Algoa bay from the store of a merchant who monopolized the trade at the only sea-port near the frontiers of the colony. As soon, however, as the British settlers arrived in Albany in 1820, Algoa bay began to be better known and more frequented by coasters, and imported goods became much cheaper and more generally diffused among all classes of the inhabitants. They, in fact, acquired many wants which they had not before, and consequently they became more *industrious* in order to supply them.

With regard to the improvements effected at the two missionary stations at Theopolis in the Albany district, and at Bethelsdorp in the

Uitenhage district, the most exaggerated accounts have been sent home. Formerly, by the laws of the colony all the Hottentots were liable to punishment if they were found wandering about the country without a pass from a master or from some missionary station.

In consequence of this oppressive system, these people found it to be most to their advantage to attach themselves *nominally* to one of these stations, which they called their home, and visited *occasionally*, when not employed in working for the farmers in the neighbourhood. A very small proportion of the Hottentots attached to these missionary stations were ever actually resident at one time; yet the religious world have been led to believe that the whole number of Hottentots whose names stand in the books kept at the different stations have been constantly receiving instruction from the missionaries.

Great efforts have been made by the missionaries to induce the Hottentots to build substantial brick and stone houses at Theopolis and Bethelsdorp, and several tolerable habitations have been erected under their direc-

tion and superintendence. This is all highly praiseworthy in the missionaries; but at the same time, in common candour they have no right to assume that these improvements, which are in a great measure *compulsatory*, are to be taken as a fair criterion by which we are to judge of the progress of civilization at their villages. If it were in their power to induce the Hottentots who inhabit these houses to labour for themselves, or others, so as to enable them to procure a sufficiency of food and clothing, they would do them a much more essential service, and convince the world that they had wrought an advantageous change in their habits of life.

After allowing the missionaries every credit for their exertions, and the best intentions with regard to the Hottentots, I cannot help thinking that they have been particularly unfortunate in the system they have adopted for the general improvement of this people. It is notorious to all the colonists, that the Hottentots who have resided for any time at the missionary stations are generally the most idle and worthless of their nation.

I have often been surprised to find that some of these people, who bore the very worst character among the farmers, and had conducted themselves very badly in my own service, were considered quite saints at the missionary stations, where they find it their interest to assume the greatest sanctity of demeanour. It must always do much more harm than good to assemble a number of ignorant people together, to live in sloth and idleness, as is generally the case at these stations. No preaching or instruction is able to counteract the vicious habits that are engendered in such circumstances. If the missionaries were obliged to travel about, as they do in some of our other colonies, this evil would be avoided, and they would have an opportunity of preaching to the Dutch farmers at the same time, who require instruction in religious matters every bit as much as the Hottentots.

In another respect the missionaries, with the best intentions possible, have done infinite mischief by fostering a spirit of hatred and insubordination among the Hottentots towards the Dutch and British colonists, by the ready

credence they lend to their complaints against their employers. When we consider the peculiar position of the missionaries, and the little intercourse they hold with the Dutch and English colonists, we need not be surprised at the violent party feeling in which they indulge among themselves, and encourage in their followers. It is quite natural that they should have a strong bias in favour of a nation who are often subjected to oppression and imposition; but nothing can produce more dangerous effects, as society is constituted, than listening too readily to the complaints of servants and espousing their cause against their masters on all occasions, which has the direct effect of encouraging disobedience and discontent.

Nothing is more common than for a Hottentot to leave the service of a master perfectly satisfied with his treatment; and yet, as soon as he reaches one of the missionary stations, a sad story of oppression and injustice is hatched up; for the Hottentots well know that this is the sure mode of ingratiating themselves with the missionary, who generally writes to the nearest magistrate on the subject. An inves-

tigation follows, and in most cases the complaint is found to be entirely groundless.

I believe a great part of this evil arises from the ignorance and prejudices of the missionaries as respects the colonists, and still more from the ignorance and credulity of the Hottentots, who are very easily misled by others, from the great weakness of their memory and judgment. I remember an instance in point, which puts this matter in a pretty strong point of view.

While I resided in the district of Uitenhage, a Hottentot woman, who had been living with a Dutch farmer near the Bosjesman's river, went to Theopolis and told a young missionary, who had recently arrived in the colony, that her master had flogged her cruelly, and exhibited the marks of the stripes on her back. The missionary immediately took a couple of armed Hottentots along with him, and marching into the farmer's house, before his family and servants, without ceremony demanded an explanation of his conduct. The farmer felt extremely hurt at the insult thus offered him, and intended to bring the matter before the

magistrate, but was at last appeased by the missionary, who found it most convenient to make an apology for his conduct. It was proved that the woman had been beaten by her *husband*, and not by her master. She certainly did not expect what followed, or she would not have brought forward so false an accusation, which seemed to have no motive but that of exciting commiseration.

As the courts in the Cape colony are now constituted, the Hottentots require no such advocacy, and the missionaries would do better if they confined themselves to their own particular calling, instead of thrusting themselves forward in matters which are quite out of their province. The love of power is natural to man, and with none does it show itself in a more objectionable shape than with religious sects of all denominations, because their vanity and spiritual pride lead them to fancy that their actions are peculiarly sanctioned by the Deity; and for this reason their motions should be watched with unremitting jealousy, to prevent them from erecting a temporal power on a spiritual basis.

It is thus that those villages which the missionaries have formed for the purpose of instructing the Hottentots and converting them to Christianity, have gradually become petty governments, where, from the influence they have gained by espousing their cause against the other classes, they exercise a kind of despotic authority over them, and foment a feeling of hostility towards the Whites, which has already partially disorganised the frame of society, and occasioned innumerable evils, that militate against the prosperity of the colonists.

It is this love of power and this busy meddling spirit, which intermix themselves with the best meant but injudicious exertions of the missionaries in South Africa, that have principally occasioned the dislike and jealousy with which they are viewed by the greater portion of the settlers. Until the abuses arising from the temporal power acquired by the missionaries over the Hottentots are removed, by the breaking up of their stations, their exertions will be attended with much more harm than good to all classes of the inhabitants of the colony. It should be their endeavour to soothe and heal

the angry feelings between the conflicting classes, which have been occasioned by former cruelties and oppression on the part of the Whites, but which no longer exist to any great extent. They should remember, that "a gentle answer turneth away wrath," and that insolence and insubordination on the part of the Hottentots are most likely to provoke a continuance of severity and tyranny on the part of their masters, who have long been accustomed to exercise a despotic power over their dependants.

All men are liable to err; and I wish it to be clearly understood, that what I have said regarding the missionaries is principally applicable to their *system*, which I believe to be radically bad, and productive of the worst consequences, as respects the interests and improvement of all classes of the community.

CHAPTER XV.

Journey to Grahamstown.—The Schoolmaster and the Dutch Lady.—Education among the Cape Dutch.—The Meester.—The Author takes up his residence in Grahamstown.—Determines to return to Europe.—Population of the Town.—Situation of Mechanics and Artisans.—Danger of suddenly acquired Power.—Rapid increase of Dissenters.—The Market Place.—Dishonesty of the Dutch.—Precaution of the Shopkeepers.—Opportunity of returning to England.—The Author embraces it.—Sails from Port Elizabeth.—Arrival at the Nore.—Parting Words to the Reader.

On the following morning after our arrival at Lovedale we set off on our return to Grahamstown, where Mr. S—— and his companion took leave of me, and continued their journey back to Uitenhage. We were all three exceedingly pleased with our excursion. Mr. S—— entertained us during our journey with many amusing anecdotes of the Dutch, whose character and modes of thinking he enjoyed

great opportunities of observing while travelling among them in the zealous discharge of the duties of his profession. In one of these excursions he was accompanied by Mr. I—, our other companion, the schoolmaster appointed by Government at Uitenhage. Arriving one evening at a farmhouse, their Dutch landlady began questioning them in the usual unceremonious manner as to their profession and pursuits. Mr. S—— told her that he was the clergyman at Uitenhage.

On receiving this information, the Dutch lady instantly became exceedingly respectful and gracious in her manner; for however the Dutch may feel towards the missionaries, they always entertain a profound veneration for ministers of the Established Church. But when Mr. S—— told her that his companion was a schoolmaster, her countenance assumed a reproachful and ironical expression, and eyeing Mr. I—— for a few seconds from head to foot, she asked him, "if he was not ashamed to be a schoolmaster when he was such a strong healthy young fellow, and able to dig in the garden for his bread?"

Most of the Dutch inhabitants of the colony can now read and write; and when any of the men are without these necessary accomplishments they generally take care to marry women who are able to keep their accounts. All learning beyond this is accounted utterly superfluous and useless, and treated with contempt. Consequently, when a farmer wishes to have his children taught to read and write, he gets some of his neighbours to join him in hiring a schoolmaster at the lowest rate of wages. This man is generally some lazy, worthless, drunken, or decrepit person, often an old Dutch or German soldier, who is contented with earning a bare livelihood, and to put up with the insolence and contempt of his employers.

The "meester," as he is called, is generally referred to when his learning is required to solve any difficult point in the course of conversation; and he often becomes exceedingly loquacious and animated, on being allowed an opportunity of showing his knowledge. But he is soon checked in his career by some contemptuous observation, such as, "The meester must know these things, for he knows nothing

else." The "meester" is seldom at a loss for an answer to the queries of his employer, for he well knows that no one can contradict him.

Some weeks after my visit to Kaffreland, tired of the solitary life I had led for so many years, and finding that I could reap almost every advantage from my property in the district of Uitenhage, which it was capable of yielding without a personal residence, I took up my abode in Grahamstown, where my brother held the situation of chief magistrate of the district of Albany, and where I had several friends. I found, notwithstanding all my exertions, that I was not likely to be able to settle comfortably for life, or to have the means of providing for a family, according to my first expectations, in a country where the remuneration for labour is so inadequate and uncertain: and I therefore determined to wait an opportunity of returning to Europe and trying my fortune in some other situation. I hired a small cottage, and a Hottentot and his wife as servants, and contrived to spend several months very agreeably.

Grahamstown had now greatly increased in

extent and population, from being the head-quarters of the troops on the frontier, and from the great trade carried on by the inhabitants with the Kaffres and the inhabitants of the inland parts of the colony, who came thither for their supplies of imported goods. When I first saw it, the town contained only a few substantial buildings, the greater part of it consisting of wretched wattled huts.

The population now exceeded three thousand five hundred; and two or three streets had been built, besides a handsome church and three or four dissenting meeting-houses. The number of houses, however, was a much better proof of the prosperity of the town than the number of churches of the state of morality among the inhabitants. These may be divided into six classes. Firstly, The civil commissioner, chief magistrate of the district of Albany, clerk of the peace, who is public prosecutor, and the clerks and others connected with their offices. Secondly, The military, who are stationed in barracks built on an eminence at one side of the town. These generally consist of a regiment of Hottentots, partly infantry and partly cavalry,

and several companies of European infantry. The Hottentots are found to be by far the most efficient troops for dealing with the Kaffres, from their intimate knowledge of their habits, and from being excellent marksmen and possessed of great experience and sagacity in following up the tracks of stolen cattle. Though naturally or habitually somewhat timid in their manners, the Hottentots have always shown great spirit and address, being in these respects nowise inferior to British soldiers, while they are much better qualified, from their activity and hardiness, for contending with the Kaffres. Thirdly, The merchants, who, with only one or two exceptions, are all retailers, form the middle class in Grahamstown. Some of them are men of education; but the greater number are persons who have raised themselves by their industry from the working classes. Fourthly, Mechanics and artisans, who are a very thriving class. Fifthly, European labourers, who are for the most part discharged soldiers, and usually a drunken, dissolute, and improvident set of men. And, sixthly, Hottentots, who seldom, if ever, rise above the condition of labourers.

There are a few slaves also, belonging chiefly to the Dutch inhabitants of the town, who form but an inconsiderable portion of the population. Any one of the class of mechanics or artisans who possesses industry and steadiness may easily raise himself to a higher situation in society; for, as soon as he has acquired a little capital, he may readily obtain credit with the merchants of Cape Town, who will give him goods to sell for them on commission, and he soon acquires the means of carrying on business on his own account. It would be well for the persons who have thus improved their circumstances could they content themselves with moderate profits, and retain the frugality of their habits: but unfortunately their ambition generally leads them to live expensively, and to speculate beyond their means; and after going on for a few years in apparent prosperity, they become bankrupt, and are obliged to return to their original employments.

The fate of such persons shows that it is easier for a poor and uneducated man in this colony to acquire wealth by trade than to retain it when acquired. Industry and frugality

are generally sufficient to enrich him, but education and sound judgment are absolutely requisite to enable him to retain his earnings. Ambition, which has in a great measure led to his advancement, as in the case of men who occupy a much higher station in the world, is also the cause of his fall.

Suddenly acquired power, and suddenly acquired wealth are alike uncertain. Where wealth is quickly and easily gained, extravagance generally keeps pace with it. All the lower classes in colonies are republicans in principle, and feeling their consequence in the community, are eager to be considered on an equality with the higher classes. This leads them to launch out into extravagance of every kind, and to compete with them in the costliness of their furniture, clothing, and mode of living. The same circumstance also accounts for the number of dissenting chapels and dissenters in Grahamstown. Dissenters are generally republicans in feeling, if not in principle; and it naturally follows that the ambitious of the lower classes will attach themselves to that party which will give them most consequence,

and is most likely to forward their worldly interests. This is one of the most active causes of the rapid increase of the different sects of dissenters in England; and the same principle operates still more powerfully in colonies. When a man in business becomes bankrupt, the surest way to retrieve his affairs is to join one of the sects of dissenters, where he will be certain of gaining the custom of the members in preference to others of the established church.

All the produce brought into Grahamstown by the farmers must, by the market regulations, be first exposed for sale in the market-place early in the morning, and there the merchants assemble to make their purchases, and generally endeavour to persuade the farmers to take the greater part of the price in goods from their stores, by which means they have a double profit, and many of them take the most dishonest advantage of the ignorance of the Dutch farmers; who, coming often from a great distance in the interior, have no idea of the prices of European goods.

The Dutch, on their side, are generally

equally dishonest, and when they see a favourable opportunity, often endeavour to conceal about their persons any articles they can lay their hands on, and convey them secretly to their waggons. When the shopkeepers detect them in pilfering in this manner, they never accuse them openly of the fact, for fear of losing their custom, but give directions to one of their assistants to watch the person who has taken the article in question, until he conveys it to the waggon, when he civilly reminds him *that it is not paid for*.

This always ensures the restoration of the goods, and often a much higher price than the shopkeeper could otherwise expect for them, and all passes off in perfect good humour on both sides. Scissors, needles, pins, thread, and all articles of small bulk, readily find their way in this manner into the huge pockets of the Dutch "frows," and even a shawl often glides with admirable dexterity under the vests of their husbands, which from their large and roomy dimensions, are well adapted for concealment.

After a residence of several months at Gra-

hamstown, an opportunity at length occurred of sailing direct for England from Port Elizabeth, Algoa bay, by a vessel which accidentally called there in consequence of some damage she had sustained in a gale of wind, on her homeward passage from the Isle of France. I had sometime before disposed of all my cattle and other moveable property by auction; but the proceeds of the sale not being payable for some months, a Jew who acted as auctioneer, and had raised himself by his industry and shrewdness from being a common labourer to comparative independence, kindly advanced me the money, and could hardly be induced to accept a very moderate remuneration for the accommodation he afforded me.

I mention this trifling circumstance in gratitude to the man, and because I firmly believe that persons of his religion are generally at least as fair in their dealings as any other class of men in similar circumstances.

In less than six hours after hearing of the arrival of the vessel, I had my baggage packed up, and on its way in a waggon to Port Elizabeth, which is about an hundred miles from

Grahamstown; and the following morning I set off on horseback to secure my passage.

Port Elizabeth, being the only safe roadstead in this part of the colony, has for several years been rapidly increasing in size and prosperity, and in all probability will soon be the most considerable town in the eastern districts. The country in its immediate vicinity, though by no means deficient in natural fertility of soil, is exceedingly arid from want of rain, and the scarcity of springs, and is in consequence very thinly inhabited.

We sailed for England on the 4th of August 1829, and after encountering a heavy gale off the southern point of the colony, and a tremendous sea which washed away the bulwarks of the vessel, we arrived at the Nore on the 21st of October. I should have given my readers a more particular description of our voyage, and the manners of my fellow passengers, which might have afforded them some amusement, but being about to embark with my family in a few days for Canada,* where I trust my exertions will meet with greater suc-

* June 20th, 1832.

cess than I experienced in South Africa, I am compelled to bring my narrative to a conclusion.

I have only a few words to say to my readers at parting.—In the preceding chapters, I have endeavoured to convey a just and true account of what I have seen and observed of the country of South Africa, and the manners of its inhabitants. I have endeavoured also, as much as was consistent with my plan at the outset, to avoid all reflections of a personal nature, while I have allowed no consideration to prevent me from speaking what I believe to be the truth, where doing so could be attended with any good effect. In conclusion, I confidently hope that in perusing these pages, the reader may find something to compensate him for his patience.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

ANECDOTES OF THE DUTCH AT THE CAPE.

A DOMESTIC SCENE.

THE work of the day being completed, Hendrick himself at length entered,—a perfect specimen of a boor; phlegmatic, indifferent, a large lump of apathy, whose hat scarcely ever left his head, or the pipe his mouth. Again did my companion tell the oft-told tale, (his province, from my want of Dutch), which meant, that we wanted beds for the night, and horses in the morning; to which the good man muttered assent. Next poured in some of the sons, powerful, hardy youngsters, and the schoolmaster, from all of whom our hands underwent most friendly pressures; but the *Meester* deserves a separate notice. The tutor who teaches the ingenuous youth of Southern Africa is generally a discharged English soldier, and leads a kind of middle life—a connecting link between the family and the slaves: his salary is very small; but then he is fed, and found in brandy, and, for this, instructs the younger branches in polite literature, and performs various trifling acts of servitude for the elders. For instance, I observed that he reported to Hendrick, that the calves were all present; but I felt myself too much a stranger to inquire whether by that he meant his pupils, or the offspring of the cows. He brought forward several of the boys to exhibit their proficiency in the English language: the sounds that came from the unwilling urchins might be anything; but they drew forth a compliment on the skill

and industry that had been so successful.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

AN ECCENTRIC HOST.

But I have passed the Lang-kloof, where a scene occurred worth the describing. We had stopped at the house of a boor, a man of a half-cracked, whimsical character,—the effect, I believe, of a tiger's bite in the head,—when an attempt was made by our guide to impose on us, and to take back his horses, on the plea of their being tired, when we, after having paid for five, had only ridden them three hours. My companion argued the point with much temper, but the fellow was dogged; and we finished the argument by leaving the house and catching and saddling the horses. While this was going forward, a tall, gaunt figure came to the door, and hallooing out that he would not see his countryman taken in, desired that we would come and explain the difference. My companion went in, while I saddled up and followed; but, before I arrived, the pleadings on both sides had been attentively listened to, and the sentence, which ran thus, pronounced:—"Scoundrels as the English are yet, you are a greater, for you are trying to cheat them." On entering, I was introduced as an Englishman about to leave the country:—"Ah! I suppose he has defrauded the poor Colonists, and has money enough to live at home now," was his strange and amusing comment: he shook me, however, heartily by the hand, and asked whether the Vrouw had given us anything to eat and drink. "Yes, some tea."—"Tea! baboons drink tea,—men drink brandy;" and three glasses were immediately ordered. I excused myself, saying, "that I did not drink brandy in the morning;" when the boor looked at me in astonishment, and mumbled something in which "English beast" was audible; and seeing that I did not look pleased, added, "No one cares what I say.—

every one knows I speak the truth." There was something irresistible in an excuse that made the first offence worse; and my companion, myself, and our strange host, touched glasses, and while he drank his off, we raised ours to our lips, and put them down again: he watched this incomprehensible manœuvre of ours with a strange glance of humour in his restless eye, and then finished the two remaining glasses. On rising, we received a most pressing invitation to stay, with a promise that he would give us a good dinner, good beds, and good horses in the morning, and would charge nothing: but we were not to be tempted; and I thought that the Vrouw, who had appeared very anxious during this scene with her extraordinary partner, seemed well pleased at our decision.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

HOSPITALITY TO TRAVELLERS.

Rude and uncultivated as are the minds of the Cape-Dutch, there is one virtue in which they eminently excel — hospitality to strangers. A countryman, a foreigner, a relation, a friend, are all equally welcome to whatsoever the house will afford. A Dutch farmer never passes a house on the road without alighting—except indeed his next neighbour's, with whom it is ten to one he is at variance. It is not enough to inquire after the health of the family in passing; even on the road, if two peasants should meet, they instantly dismount to shake hands, whether strangers or friends.

When a traveller arrives at a habitation, he alights from his horse, enters the house, shakes hands with the men kisses the women, and sits down without further ceremony. When the table is served, he takes his place among the family without waiting for an invitation: this is never given, on the supposition that a traveller, in a country so thinly inhabited, must always have an appetite for something. Accordingly, "What will you make use of?" is generally

the first question. If there be a bed in the house, it is given to the stranger; if none, which is frequently the case among the graziers of the district of Graaf Reynet, he must take his chance for a form, or bench, or a heap of sheep-skins, among the rest of the family. In the morning, after a solid breakfast, he takes his *sopie*, or glass of brandy; orders his slave or Hottentot to saddle the horses; again shakes hands with the men, and kisses the women: *he* wishes them health, and *they* wish him a good journey. In this manner a traveller might pass through the whole country.—*Barrow's Travels in Southern Africa.*

A LION HUNT.

Mr. S—— had chased in the direction of the mimosas, trenching on the ground which our comrades were to take; he was getting closer to his object, and was about to dismount a second time, when his eyes glanced on the long-wished-for game,—an enormous lion! He was walking majestically slow; but when Mr. S—— gave the tally-ho to us, he couched and seemed inclined to wait, but soon afterwards cantered off to the mimosas.

In a few seconds we were all up, at least our division. The first object was to prevent him from climbing the mountain; we therefore rode through the mimosas, about three hundred yards from where he had entered, and got between him and the heights. Diederik, Muller, and Mr. S——, with their servants and led-horses, then rode round the little grove, whilst we were stationed where we first entered. The grove was hardly five hundred yards in length and twenty in breadth; consequently we could by this arrangement command the whole of it.

True to our engagement, as well as heartily wishing their assistance, we waited for the other party. The other part of our division having rode round the grove, came up opposite

to us, but at a distance; and as we saw them dismount, we did the same. Our situation was not very enviable; we had but one large gun, but Mr. Rennie, who carried it, was perfectly collected. We were talking to each other rather in a whisper, when Mr. Rennie very coolly said, "Listen — the gentleman is grumbling." The sound was so very like distant thunder, that we doubted it; but, at the same moment, I caught a glimpse of the lion walking away not a hundred and fifty yards from us, and he must have been previously still nearer to us than we had calculated. I gave the alarm, which was echoed to our friends, who in an instant mounted and rode up to the lower end, calling upon us to advance. We were moving down to gain a position on a little height, when a gun was fired, followed by four more. This convinced us our other division had joined.

We thought there would have been an end to our sport before it had well begun; but, on the contrary, the shots were fired not only to prevent him leaving the copse, but to prove their guns, for a miss-fire is frequently of consequence. The last shot had the effect of turning him, and we now had a full view of him returning to the centre, whisking his tail about, and treading among the smaller bushes as if they had been grass; reminding us most forcibly of the paintings we had seen of this majestic animal.

The last shot, however, had convinced us that our position was not safe, for the ball passed very near us. We called to inform the party of this, and they resolved on another plan of attack. They desired us to station two Hottentots on the hill above our position, and we were to join them. We crossed again through the bushes, and it was then determined that we were all to dismount, and tie our horses together, and to advance on foot. This is the usual plan, and it is done to secure any person from galloping off by his horse

taking fright or otherwise, which would induce the lion to pursue, and thus one or other might be sacrificed.

We had hardly begun to tie our horses, when the Hottentots stationed on the hill cried out that the lion was running off at the lower end, where he had attempted to escape before. We were on horseback in a second, but the lion had got a head; we had him, however, in full view, as there was nothing to intercept it. Off he scampered: the Tambookies, who had just come up and mixed amongst us, could scarcely clear themselves of our horses; and their dogs howling and barking, we hallooing, the lion still in full view, making for a small copse about a mile distant, and the number and variety of the antelopes on our left, scouring off in different directions, formed one of the most animating spectacles the annals of sporting could produce.

Diederik and Mr. S—— being on very spirited horses, were the foremost; and we wondered to see them pass on in a direction different from the copse where we had seen the lion take covert. Christian gave us the signal to dismount where we were, as well as could be judged about two hundred yards from the copse. He desired us to be quick in tying the horses, which was done as fast as each came up. And now the die was cast,—there was no retreating. We were on lower ground than the lion, with not a bush around us. Diederik and Mr. S—— had now turned their horses; for, as we afterwards learned, they had been run away with in consequence of their bridles having broken. The plan was to advance in a body, leaving our horses with the Hottentots, who were to keep their backs towards the lion, fearing they should become unruly at the sight of him.

All these preparations occupied but a few seconds, and they were not completed, — when we heard him growl, and imagined he was making off again:—but no—as if to retrieve

his character from suspicion of cowardice for former flight, he had made up his mind to turn to attack us. To the growl succeeded a roar; and, in the same instant, we saw him bearing down upon us, his eyeballs glistening with rage. We were unprepared; his motion was so rapid, no one could take aim, and he furiously darted at one of our horses, whilst we were at their heads, without a possibility of preventing it. The poor horse sprang forward, and with the force of the action wheeled all the horses round with him. The lion likewise wheeled, but immediately couched at less than ten yards from us. Our left flank thus became exposed, and on it fortunately stood C. Muller and Mr. Rennie. What an anxious moment! For a few seconds we saw the monster at this little distance, resolving, as it were, on whom he should first spring. Never did I long so ardently to hear the report of a gun. We looked at them aiming, and then at the lion. It was absolutely necessary to give a mortal blow, or the consequences might perhaps be fatal to some one of the party. A second seemed a minute. At length Christian fired; the under-jaw of the lion dropped, blood gushed from his mouth, and he turned round with a view to escape. Mr. Rennie then shot him through the spine, and he fell.

At this moment he looked grand beyond expression: turning again towards us, he rose upon his fore feet, his mouth bleeding, his eyes flashing vengeance. He attempted to spring at us; but his hind legs denied him assistance;—he dragged them a little space, when Stephanus put a final period to his existence by shooting him through the brain. He was a noble animal, measuring nearly twelve feet from the nose to the tip of the tail.—*Scenes in Albany.*

A LEOPARD SHOT.

We entertained a considerable feeling of disappointment at not having encountered any of the wild game, which our

companions, as well as ourselves, had eagerly anticipated; but just as we were passing a gloomy and intricate part of the thicket, one of the dogs made a steady point; we prepared and moved forward, when up rose an immense leopard. The person in advance fired; but his musket was only loaded with slug-shot, and the monster made off and climbed a tree with difficulty. A second shot missed; he then crouched, shook his tail, and was in the act of springing, when we immediately retired; he then jumped down, and the boor instantly fired, but only wounded him. He growled tremendously: the dogs attacked him, and forced him up another tree; the boor took a favourable position, fired, and the animal fell mortally wounded.

It was very large, and the skin was beautifully marked. The Dutch call them tigers, but we were informed that there is no tiger in the colony, and this certainly was a leopard. —*Scenes in Albany.*

No. II.

ANECDOTES OF THE HOTTENTOTS.

FACULTIES.

The Hottentot is rather the creature of instinct than of reason, and here his instincts are particularly useful:—his sight is wonderfully acute; his power of finding his way through trackless wastes is as surprising as that of the American Indian; and he follows his prey with the certainty of the bloodhound. Add to this, that he is capable of undergoing great privation; that he can abstain from food for days, diminishing the gnawing pain of hunger by tightening the *girdle of famine* around him,* and is an unerring marksman, and you have all that is necessary.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

ELEPHANT HUNT.

"That strange old man, Skipper, may be thoroughly depended on in situations of danger, but is easily daunted by superstitious feelings. I remember his firing three times at a large sea-cow; the piece snapped in the pan, and Skipper turned back, and was not to be prevailed on to try again." He said, "It was not to be."

When the elephants do not fall after frequent firing, it is thought to be fate; and Skipper quits the bush and returns hopeless. The Hottentots generally wear charms about them; and a common one is the wood found in the head of the elephant. "Ay, I have heard of that wood," I said.—

* When hunger presses, the Hottentot draws a girdle tightly round his stomach, which has the effect described: but even this strange power is less extraordinary than the quantity he can eat when food is offered to him, without feeling inconvenience from the long fast, or the tremendous repletion immediately following.

"To-morrow, I shall probably be able to show it you," replied the hunter.

Well, to-morrow came, and we took an early breakfast, and prepared for our sport. "I will not again trust to my own legs," I said, "but to those of my horse."—"He will be of little service to you near the elephants," replied the hunter: "fear deprives horses of all power; and I have seen them lie down under the bush to conceal themselves, crouching like dogs;—however, if you like, you can ride until you come near them."

We crossed the Fish River, and directed our course to its junction with the Kat, through a country strongly resembling that I have already described,—hills and hollows, covered with dusky-green bush, and traversed by elephant paths; while at times we came on the dark, deep, shadowy side of a kloof, or caught a gleam of the river winding its serpent way far below us. As we moved on, the noise of the honey-bird was heard, which a Hottentot quickly answered by a whistle, and followed, still whistling his response to every note; and the bird conducted him to the nest, which, unfortunately, overhung a cliff far out of reach, baffling both bird and follower. I have several times known the Hottentots pursue these winged messengers, and seldom return empty-handed.

The greater part of the day was spent in fruitless search, and the shadows had shifted before the quick-sighted Hottentots had discovered any recent traces: at length, one of them pointed to a distant, high, rocky hill on the opposite side of the Kat River, and forming a continuation to its steep wooded bank. We descended from the range of hills we had been skirting, reached the river, crossed it, and commenced the steep ascent: the low ground we had lately been traversing, and the abrupt banks of the stream, had

intercepted our view of the elephants; but on mounting the summit of the hill, we saw them plainly. Here, those who were riding dismounted, and tied their horses to bushes, turning their heads from the point of attack, and lighting round them the elephants' dried dung,—that, in the event of the animals charging that way, they might be safe,—left them, and moved cautiously and silently forward.

As we approached, we counted nine or ten, whose backs rose above the high bush that clothed the side of the steep kloof in which they were feeding. We walked quickly forward, until we got immediately above them. The two Hottentots halted, and took their posts; while the hunter, my companion, and myself, pursued our course: the surrounding bush and euphorbia were too thick to see anything, but we heard them close below us quietly browsing on the boughs of the Spekboom, their favourite food. We heard a shot,—another, and then a tremendous rush, as the elephants passed by us through the bush: the hunter fired without success; and I had not time to bring my gun to my shoulder before they were gone: the whole was a thing of a few seconds. We followed, D—— lighting the bush around us; and descending into the hollow, we again heard a shot, and having skirted round the small kloof, returned to the point from which we started.

The effect of the firing was the death of three: they were small, the largest not being above nine feet in height. I sat on one while they searched for the wood in his head. It lies about an inch beneath the skin, imbedded in fat, just above the eye, and has the appearance of a thorn, or a small piece of twig broken off; some are without it; and on examining the spot minutely, we found that there was a small opening in the skin—a large pore it may be; and I conceive that this phenomenon is simply accounted for, by the twig breaking

in this hole when the animal is in the act of rubbing his head against the bushes. That it is wood is certain; and that it is a charm of power, the natives consider no less so.

Having horses to carry away the spoil, we opened one of the elephants, and took out the heart; part of which—for the whole was enormous—we intended to take with us; his trunk, at least the upper part of it, was then laid by, and one of his feet completed our stock of provisions, which were bound together by a strip cut from his large flappy ear. The hunter marked their tusks; we took possession of their tails, and left the remainder a prey to the wolf and the vulture.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

PECULIARITIES OF FORMATION.

The person of a Hottentot while young is by no means void of symmetry. They are clean-limbed, well-proportioned, and erect. Their joints, hands, and feet, are remarkably small. No protuberance of muscle to indicate strength; but a body delicately formed as that of a woman, marks the inactive and effeminate mind of a Hottentot. The face is in general extremely ugly; but this differs very materially in different families, particularly in the nose, some of which are remarkably flat, and others considerably raised. The colour of the eye is a deep chesnut: they are very long and narrow, removed to a great distance from each other; and the eyelids, at the extremity next the nose, instead of forming an angle, as in Europeans, are rounded into each other exactly like those of the Chinese; to whom, indeed, in many other points, they bear a physical resemblance that is sufficiently striking. The cheek-bones are high and prominent, and, with the narrow-pointed chin, form nearly a triangle. Their teeth are beautifully white. The colour of the skin is that of a yellowish brown or a faded leaf; but very different from the sickly hue of a person with the jaundice, which it

has been described to resemble. The hair is of a very singular nature: it does not cover the whole surface of the scalp, but grows in small tufts at certain distances from each other; and, when kept short, has the appearance and feel of a hard shoe-brush; with this difference, that it is curled and twisted into small round lumps about the size of a marrowfat-pea. When suffered to grow, it hangs in the neck in hard twisted tassels like fringe.—*Barrow's Travels in Southern Africa.*

No. III.

ANECDOTES OF THE KAFFRES.

APPEARANCE AND DRESS.

The Chief is generally distinguished from his followers by a carosse of tiger's skin, and by a narrow tasteful beaded band worn round the head; and when he stands surrounded by his armed attendants, wrapped in their dark cloaks, it forms a most imposing sight, and one which, though my expectation had been raised, surprised me. Their figures are the noblest that my eye ever gazed upon, their movements the most graceful, and their attitudes the proudest, standing like forms of monumental bronze. I was much struck with the strong resemblance that a group of Kaffres bears to the Greek and Etruscan antique remains, except that the savage drapery is more scanty, and falls in simpler folds; their mantles, like those seen on the figures of the ancient vases, are generally fastened over the shoulder of the naked arm, while the other side is wholly concealed; but they have many ways of wearing the carosse, and of giving variety to their only garment.—*Rose's Four Years in South Africa.*

MISSIONARY SERVICE.

On the following morning we were present at the missionary service; and to me there was something highly impressive, in hearing the song of praise, set to their native airs, come from those wild dark groups. There was one hymn that had been composed by a Kaffre, with which I was particularly pleased, and which I afterwards obtained: the four first words of each verse were repeated by a single bass voice; while all, males and females, joined in the remainder. It perhaps owed much of its merit to the circumstances

which I heard it, and will be by you considered mono-
s. I send it, however, at all risks.

THE KAFFRE HYMN.

" Ulin guba inhulu siambata tina,
Ulodali bom' uadali pezula,
Umdala uadala idala izula,
Yebinza inquinquis zixeliela,
Utika umkula gozezulinè,
Yebinza inquinquis noziliméle,
Umze uakonana subiziele,
Umkokeli na sikokeli tina,
Uenze infaana zenza ga borni;
Imali inkula subiziele,
Wena, wena q'a ba inyaniza,
Wena, wena kaka linyaniza,
Wena, wena klati linyaniza:
Ulodali bom' uadali pezula
Umdala uadala idala izule."

TRANSLATION.

" He who is our mantle of comfort,
The giver of life, ancient on high,
He is the Creator of the heavens,
And the ever-burning stars.
God is mighty in the heavens,
And whirls the stars around the sky.
We call on Him in His dwelling-place,
That He may be our mighty leader;
For He maketh the blind to see:
We adore Him as the only good;
For He alone is a sure defence;
He alone is a trusty shield;
He alone is our bush of refuge;
Even He, the giver of life on high,
Who is the Creator of the heavens."

Ibid.

METHOD OF DISCOVERING A WITCH.

Some of our party entered Pato's kraal in the dusk of the evening, and were witnesses to a ceremony performed by the rain-maker, in discovering a witch. The chief had been long sick, and the rain-maker was summoned, for the sickness of a chief is always the effect of witchcraft or of poison; and the tribe was in doubt and fear. When I entered, I found the women ranged in a semicircle, beating the large shields of the warriors, and shouting a melancholy monotonous air,

"To some dark being framed by their phantasy;"

but it appeared to me, that they liked not a stranger to see their wild rites, for they ceased soon after our approach.

The belief in witchcraft is general throughout the country, and the punishments are dreadful. The rain-maker, after his ceremonies, fixes on some obnoxious individual possessed of a large quantity of cattle: no proof is necessary, no protestations of innocence avail: the wretch is fixed to the earth by a thong, carried round the ankles and wrists, which are fastened to stakes driven into the ground; burning stones are then placed on his body, and nests of the large black venomous ants broken on the scorched and wounded parts. In his agony he confesses to all that is demanded of him, and is then ordered to give up the power by which he worked evil. He gives up something, — anything, — a string of beads or an ornament, and is then tortured to death, or driven from the tribe a wanderer and a beggar.—*Ibid.*

A WITCH WOLF.

In Hinza's territory, a Kaffre, whose possessions excited envy and dislike, was accused of keeping a wolf, which, though confined during the day, roamed about the country at night, and destroyed the cattle. On this plea he was seized

and deprived of everything, half of the cattle being taken by Hinza, while the other half were distributed among the councillors. The man was banished the country; and, on leaving it, seized on the cattle of another, and carried them with him to Voosani, a neighbouring chief of Tambooki's. Hinza sent to complain of the robbery, to demand the cattle, and to inform the chief of the crime of the man whom he had protected. The cattle were returned, and great horror expressed at the crime. The missionary who told me the story, in speaking to Hinza on the subject, said, "You have plenty of cattle; why did you ruin the poor man?" When the chief turned to him with a peculiar smile, which marked that he was not deceived, and with a tone of mock seriousness said, "Yes, but it is a shocking thing, you know, to keep a witch wolf."—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

SUPERSTITIONS.

Several of the Kaffre superstitions almost approach religion, which they are said to be without.

A Kaffre selects as his guardian the spirit of some former chief or friend; invokes him on all occasions of difficulty; thanks him on all escapes from danger; sacrifices to him part of the ox that he kills, part of the game that he takes; and in harvest-time scatters a portion of the grain as an offering. In crossing a flooded ford he calls upon him; and when the string that fastens the ornaments of his carosse is loose, and he discovers it in time to save them, he ascribes to his kind spirit that the thought of looking had occurred to him.

When the kraal is struck by lightning, the site is either deserted, or an ox burnt on the spot, or buried beneath it, as an offering to the incensed spirit of the kraal, or to *Uhlanga*, the spirit of thunder.

The apparition of the dead, *Shulanga*, is supposed at times to haunt a kraal, when his dying wishes have not been com-

plied with, and an ox is sacrificed to appease it; and a man rushes from the habitations in wild pursuit of the dark shadowy form.

When the wife of a Kaffre dies, he becomes unclean, leaves the kraal, and lives in the bush for a certain time; and on his return, puts on a fresh carosse, burning that in which he had mourned. On the death of a chief, the ceremony is, I believe, similar, and the mourning longer.

We remarked on the banks of the Kei River, some of those heaps of stones which are to be met with on the hills near the Fish River, and which are generally said to be thus marked by the Kaffres, as the spots where European soldiers were killed. I inquired particularly regarding them, and was informed by our guides, that when a Kaffre felt weary, he had but to add a stone to the heap to regain fresh vigour. I asked how the first stone came there; and only heard that their fathers and their grandfathers had done it, and they did it. These heaps are by the Kaffres called *Vivani.—Ibid.*

METHOD OF DESTROYING THE ELEPHANT.

I had heard so much of the native mode of killing the elephant, and of the perseverance and daring exhibited, that I had long wished for an opportunity of witnessing the hunt; but something had always occurred to prevent, or to delay it. It had been described to me as lasting for days—sometimes for weeks—the huge monster, whose strength might appear to bid defiance to any weapon receiving its impetus from the arm of man, sinking at length under the wearying effect of long pursuit, and the weakness attendant on loss of blood flowing from innumerable petty wounds.

It is only in the chase and in war that a stranger can see the energies of the natives drawn out: in general, grouped around the fire, or beneath the shade of trees, their character —the effect of their climate—is that of listless apathy and

sluggish indifference, now and then broken in upon by something that excites an interest, and arouses looks and glances savagely intelligent. But in the pursuit of the larger animals, all their powers of action and enterprise are elicited; their arts of cunning circumvention—that knowledge which teaches them when to enlarge the circle of enemies that has been drawn around their victim—when to diminish it—to approach, and to pour their assegais in upon him. Then, too, is exhibited all the vigour of their fine forms in the attack, all its speed in their flight, when the maddened beast turns on his assailants; and at such times all that speed is frequently insufficient to save them. I longed to watch their noiseless, stealthy pace, and their dark figures, now half concealed in the underwood, now creeping through tangled thickets, and now bounding forward, while the rocky hollows echo their shrill scream of triumph; the skill with which, taking advantage of every bush, rock, or inequality of ground, they crouch from view, keeping below the wind to prevent discovery from the animal's accurate sense of smell; and when all these arts fail, and the tortured beast rushes forward in reckless despair, the wild effect produced by their firing the high dry grass and brushwood, and retiring in safety behind its dazzling flame. There was in all this much to pique my curiosity, and still more in the strange feeling of superstitious awe with which they are said to approach their prostrate prey, and to exculpate themselves of any blame in his death, by declaring to him gravely, that the thing was entirely the effect of accident, not design; while, to atone for the offence, or to deprive him of all fancied power,* they cut off the trunk and solemnly inter it, pronouncing repeatedly during

* In this extraordinary custom a resemblance may be traced to one mentioned by Shaw, in his Travels, of the Arabs burning the head of the hyena, lest it should be made the means of some charm of evil influence.

the operation, "The elephant is a great lord, and the trunk is his hand."

I received the following account of a Kaffre elephant-hunt from a missionary who witnessed it.

"The elephant, after receiving many wounds, plunged into one of the sea-cow holes in the Chilumni River: the place was deep, but narrow; and the Kaffres stood on the banks, throwing their assegais with certainty, until his huge back was stuck all over with them, and the water dyed with his blood. At length, a Kaffre made his appearance with a gun, and firing, struck him on the shoulder; the beast gave a tremendous scream, and rushed to the shore to face the hunters, who yielded him a clear path; and the elephant, to whom the last wound had carried death, turned to regain the water. At this moment I saw (said the narrator) one of the hunters, who had but a few minutes before leaped out of his path, return to the attack, jump up, and catch him by the tail, plunging at the same time an assegai into his flank,—the elephant regained the river and died."—"I never," observed the missionary, "saw so strongly contrasted the daring and the insignificance of man."—*Ibid.*

AN ARGUMENT.

The Hottentots were eloquent on the theme of the Kaffre depredations, and insisted on the great service and improvement that would follow their being organized, and having serjeants, and corporals, and officers appointed; indeed, they would never be good for anything until it took place. The Kaffre laughed; owned that there were some *Schelms* among them; but then there were wicked people in all countries: he could not deny that at times they stole cattle. "And why should you steal," interrupted the soldier, "when you have plenty of your own?"—"We are so fond of our own cattle, that we prefer killing those of our neighbours," calmly answered the

Kaffre: "and then it is done so cleverly; they creep along the ground on their bellies: I wonder their bellies are not sore with it." I forget how the argument ended, but it excited great laughter round the fire; and the Kaffre kept up the fight with much grave humour.—*Ibid.*

COURAGE AND AGILITY.

On reaching our station, I found the hunters absent; and my companion told me that they had gone in a new direction, and that we were to take up a fresh bivouac, and then join in the search for sport. This last part of the arrangement, I must own, I was not particularly anxious about; for having satisfied my hunger, and bathed, I stretched myself beneath the shadow of the trees, and slept most deliciously. The hunters did not return till the evening; and my companion, a devoted sportsman, I thought appeared pleased that they had seen nothing. Our night-fires were again formed, and our dinner again discussed with admirable appetite. Stretched on the sheepskins, I gave an account of my adventure, and finished it by saying, "While you, I suppose, were greatly amused last night in thinking of our situation?"—"No, I was far from easy," replied D——, "and your meeting with the rhinoceros might have been a very serious one; for it is the most savage beast in the country, and dreads nothing except the elephant." He asked whether it had come towards us grunting, and rooting up the turf with his horn; and on my replying that, as far as I could tell, from the slight glimpse I caught of him, it was not so, and that I only heard his heavy tramp, he said, "Then it could not have been seeking you, but had probably been frightened by the elephants crossing the ravine. There is," he said, "an old chief who is known among the Kaffres for an act of desperate courage, or rather madness: A hunting party was out, when a rhinoceros started from the bush close to them—so close that the Kaffre

sprang upon his back. The monster rushed through the bushes, and ploughed up the ground with his horn, snorted with rage, and did everything to unseat his wild rider. In galloping on, the bushes tore the carosse from the Kaffre's back, and the rhinoceros turned upon it, and, while tearing it, the rider leapt from him, and escaped into the thick underwood." When fired on—even when badly wounded, they rush forward; and flame, which turns other animals, has then no effect on them. The buffalo also charges impetuously forward when fired upon; but is less dangerous, as he keeps his head close to the ground; and if the hunter jumps into a bush, and is raised ever so little above him, he is safe. The common mode of attacking the buffalo is with dogs, and firing on him when surrounded and engaged with them.—*Ibid.*

CORPOREAL FORMATION.

Bordering upon the country of the Hottentots, the manners, the persons, and the whole character of the Kaffres seemed to be as widely removed from this phlegmatic race as the equator from the pole. The Hottentot young women had much the advantage, however, of the Kaffres in point of figure. The latter were mostly of low stature, very strong-limbed, and particularly muscular in the leg; but the good-humour that constantly beamed upon their countenances, made ample amends for any defects in their persons.

The men, on the contrary, were the finest figures I ever beheld: they were tall, robust, and muscular; their habits of life had induced a firmness of carriage, and an open, manly manner, which, added to the good-nature that overspread their features, showed them at once to be equally unconscious of fear, suspicion, and treachery. A young man about twenty, of six feet ten inches high, was one of the finest figures that perhaps was ever created. He was a perfect Hercules; and a cast from his body would not have disgraced the pedestal of

that deity in the Farnese Palace. Many of them had indeed the appearance of bronze figures. Their skins, which were nearly black, and their short curling hair, were rubbed over with a solution of red-ochre, and the tint it produced on the dark ground was very far from having any disagreeable effect. Some few were covered with skin cloaks, but the greater part were entirely naked. There is, in fact, perhaps no nation on earth which can produce so fine a race of men as the Kaffres. The women wore long cloaks that extended below the calf of the leg; and their heads were covered with leather caps, ornamented with beads, with shells, and with pieces of polished copper and iron, that were disposed in a variety of forms; but the fashion of the cap was nearly the same in all.—*Barrow's Southern Africa.*

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

The Kaffres bring in ivory, gum, elephants' tusks, mats, and baskets, to a very considerable amount. We saw two enormous tusks purchased from them which weighed ninety-eight pounds each. The Kaffres are described as a very noble-looking race, tall, finely proportioned, and possessing great muscular strength. They display infinite sagacity, and evince an evident superiority over the common race of savages. The rush baskets made by the women are extremely ingenious; they are so firm and closely made, that they will hold liquids, and are always used by the Kaffres as milking buckets. They have as yet no estimation for European clothing; and, as an instance, at one of the late fairs, there were some common shawls taken in exchange; a woman gave some baskets for one, but she had no sooner got possession of it than she tore it in pieces, giving her companions each a part to put their beads in. They are very particular in their choice of beads and buttons, taking care always to bite them; and if they break, they are rejected."—*Scenes in Albany.*

No. IV.

ANECDOTES OF THE WILD BEASTS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

THE TIGER.

THE sun has sunk, and the cattle, horses, and sheep are all brought into their kraals* for the night, and woe to those that have strayed! for the wolf has now descended from the hills and will scour the valley till daybreak; and the beautifully spotted form of the Cape tiger is sometimes to be met with in the dusk, gliding through the thicket, and approaching close to the habitations of man. Crouched near the sheep kraal, the short quick howl which he gives on scenting his prey, may be heard in the stillness of the night; and in the morning the farmer finds that he has sprung the high enclosure, and carried havoc among his flock.

The tiger seems to have a pleasure in destroying distinct from the necessity which urges other wild beasts; for the sheep are frequently found untouched, save that the animal has sucked their blood. One of these beasts, whose nightly depredations had roused the farmers, was killed during my stay in the valley. This is the general course of proceeding on these occasions. The animal is tracked to its lair in the thick underwood, and, when found, attacked by large dogs: if possible, it flies; but when unable to escape, makes a desperate defence, raising itself above the assailants by leaping on a bush, and from thence striking them down with its paws as they rush in, and, from its great strength and activity, frequently destroying them. But the tiger seems to know its master-foe, and should a man approach within the range of

* A palisaded enclosure, the Corral of South America; it also signifies a native village.

its tremendous spring, it at once leaves the dogs, and darts upon him, and the struggle is then for life.

I was told of a slave, who, on going out early one morning to look after cattle, heard his dogs baying at a distance in the jungle, and, on coming up to ascertain the cause, was met by the tiger's spring. The savage clung, and, seizing him by the nape of his neck, tore the skin off, until the scalp hung over his eyes: but, even in this state of torture, the slave drew the wood-knife from his belt, and stabbed him to the heart.

In general, the man stands at a distance, waiting his opportunity until he can fire without injuring the dogs; and in this manner the animal I speak of was killed, as the single round hole in his rich skin proved.

THE ELEPHANT.

I will repeat two adventures related to me by the individuals to whom they occurred, and witnessed by many; an addition that to you may be necessary, but with me their simple assertion is sufficient.

I was out elephant-hunting with a party of Dutch boors: we had killed one, a female, "and I," said the narrator, "had dismounted from my horse, which a Hottentot was holding, to allow me to cut the wood out of the dead beast's head, and was stooping for the purpose, when I heard a strange unnatural scream; I never heard so wild a sound of terror, and turned only to see the Hottentot let go the horse, and rush away, and in a moment I saw a tremendous elephant rearing its trunk almost above me. It was the male come to revenge the death of his companion." "What did you feel," I asked, "at that moment?" "I know not what I felt—nothing, for I have no remembrance of anything until I found myself on the back of my horse; but the boors, who were looking on from a safe distance, said that I ran like a spring-

buck; and indeed I must, for it seems that I caught my horse by its tail, and sprung on its back."

Before this adventure, Captain —— had been noted for his daring, or rather rashness, in these sports; but he owned that this completely satisfied him, and proved, what he had been in the habit of denying, that there was danger in elephant-hunting.

The other story is of an officer, who was out with a party of Hottentots, somewhere, I think, near the banks of the Great Fish River, when the men pointed out to him elephants browsing in a hollow; he left his party, and taking a small gun with him, loaded with a common ball, went to look at them, when one pursued him. In his fear, he quitted the thick bush that might have given him a chance of concealment and escape, and took to the open ground, where the elephant was quickly close upon him. He described himself as stopping from exhaustion; and on the beast's coming close, as firing in despair,—for he had no hope that a common gun, with a small charge, could do anything,—he scarcely took aim, and waited not to see the effect of his shot; but having gained a moment's breath, again rushed away; and as he ran he heard a shout from his men, and thought it was sent up because the monster had reached him; but they shouted in triumph at his fall—that single shot had killed him.—*Rose's Four Years in Southern Africa.*

We threaded the elephant paths with a swift silent pace, over hills and through ravines, until, from having been long unaccustomed to walking in this riding country, I began, greatly to the surprise of the hunter, to show symptoms of fatigue. "We shall soon be among the elephants," he said, "and then we can sit down and watch them." Forward we went—now in shadow, and now in light, as we wound through the high bush; the light now glancing on the strange head-

gear of the leading Hottentot, now touching the yellow handkerchief that bound the hunter's head—now the blue one that shadowed the fair brow of the boy, and now running in a line along the muzzles of the large guns; then again they were lost in the gloom of some dark descent or rocky ravine.

We had frequently traced the mighty foot-prints of the elephants, from which the Hottentots told us when the animals had been there. "This is three days old."—"This is last night." It was curious to observe the marks stamped in the mud around the small ponds, of animals that left their haunts at night to drink. The misshapen *spoor* of the elephant; that of the rhinoceros, resembling three horses' hoofs; the buffalo, the wolf, the timid and various antelopes, and the baboon, were all clearly to be traced.

The African sun of mid-day now poured all its fire upon us; and it was with difficulty I could carry my gun, and the far-searching eyes of the hunters in vain looked around.

The only animals we had seen were three buffaloes, that rushed down the side of the hill close to us, and disappeared in the deep hollow below. We had passed in our search several bodies of elephants, their bones bleached by sun and shower, showing through the black, shroud-like, shrivelled skin; and at one place the skeleton of a rhinoceros lay close to that of its mighty enemy.

The search was becoming hopeless, when the leader pointed to a distant hill: there was a consultation, in which it was decided that a troop of elephants was passing over it. I looked, and could see nothing. But now we went on with fresh vigour, and gained the hill opposite to that on which they were: we halted and watched; a few words passed between the hunter and Skipper, and we descended silently the ravine that divided us. Again they whispered, marked from what point the light breeze came, and we commenced

the steep ascent in a direction that the wind might come from the animals to us; for we were now so near them, that their quick scent would have discovered us. Skipper led, while we followed in Indian file, threading a narrow rocky path, which skirted one bank of a small hollow, while the huge beasts were feeding on the opposite one. The leader halted; the hunter gave my companion and myself lighted sticks, and whispered directions to fire the bush and grass, and to retreat, in the event of the animals charging. It was a strange feeling to find myself within twenty yards of creatures whose forward movement would have been destruction; but they stood browsing on the bushes, and flapping their large ears, pictures of indolent security. We were taking our stations, when we heard a shot, and then another; and of eight elephants, seven fled. We went forward to see the effect of the shots. Skipper's had carried death with it; the elephant had fallen, but rose again. I never heard anything like its groans: he again fell, and we went up to him; the ball had entered behind the shoulder and reached the heart.

In looking at the mighty monster, I could not help saying, "Poor beast! and were it not for these ivory tusks, you might live happy and unmolested; and they appear given but for your destruction, for of what use are they?"—"Defence," answered my companion. "No," said the hunter; "for the most fierce and dangerous among them is a breed that the Dutch call Koeskops, and they have no tusks." We cut off his tail, in token of triumph, and then followed the troop that had fled down the hill: we saw them crossing the ravine, and traced their downward course by the destruction and uprooting of everything that had impeded it: branches were strewed around; and the large palm-like euphorbias, so common in these wild regions, were broken like twigs. In our pursuit, we crossed the lairs of the buffalo and the elephant, and gained the ravine; when I, who had walked full twenty-

four miles over the roughest ground, with a gun that weighed twenty pounds, found it impossible to keep up with my more active companions; and seating myself on the ground, told the hunter to go and leave me, and, on reaching the bivouac, to send my Hottentot and horse. "It is impossible," he replied; "it will be a dark night; and even in the day no one would find you here."—"It is of no consequence; I do not wish to spoil your sport, but I can go no farther;" and I stretched myself on the ground, indifferent to the result. "Were a rhinoceros to come down, I think you would find your legs."—"No; nothing could make me mount that hill." There was a consultation, which I scarcely heard; and it was resolved that the little boy should remain with me; and that, when I had rested, we should ascend the hill, lighting fires as we went, to mark our course. The remainder of the party followed the elephants.

In half an hour I again took my gun, which had been changed for one that would scarcely fire, and began to ascend the hill by an elephant path: the valley we had just left, and the side of the hill, were thickly covered with high dark bush,—on my right so close as to prevent our seeing any object in that direction. We were slowly rising the ascent, when I heard the heavy gallop of a large animal approaching: my little companion was at some distance from me, blowing a lighted stick: "Listen," I said: the boy's eyes looked wild, and he fled from the sound; while I ran up the hill, not doubting that it was a rhinoceros; the heavy tramp was close to me, and I scarcely saw a large dark animal burst through the bush within a few yards of me, in the spot I had just quitted, and in the very path I was following. I did not stop; for, from the glimpse I caught, I believed it to be a rhinoceros: my young companion fired the bush, which I heard crackling, and in a few minutes came up to me. "What a narrow escape!" he said. "What was it?—the rhinoceros?" "Did

you not see it close to you? it turned from the lighted bush." It was certainly a situation of danger, for the boldest hunter dreads and shuns this savage animal, and troops of lions have been known to fly before him; yet, without affecting any particular courage, I trusted rather to my heels than my gun; which, as the event turned out, was fortunate, for, when I attempted afterwards to fire, it snapped three times. I do not remember that I felt much fear; nor do I believe that, under similar circumstances, fear is natural: there is no time for it; every energy is employed in escape. In a gale at sea, on board a small coasting brig, amidst the wild winds and waves of the Cape, though there was probably not one-twentieth part of the real danger, I have felt much more; for there I was a useless being, and no exertions of my own would avail, and memory and thought had time to be busy.

We at length gained the summit of the hill, and saw the elephants traversing the one before us, their huge backs showing high above the bush; we heard our companions fire, and saw the animals rush away, and one charging towards us: we fired the bush and grass around us, and stood in a circle of flame; we listened, but could hear nothing, and proceeded lighting the bush as we passed, and tracing the route of the elephant, and the point at which he had been checked by the fire. The effect of the shots, we afterwards heard, was the death of a large female elephant, that fell with ten balls in her, each ball a death; but she stood heaving her back in agony, while her young calf went round and moved under her, covered with the blood of its mother. 'Tis savage work!

We found on our route a small pond, or rather puddle, but never was anything more welcome! and yet, when I think of it, the thirst must have been indeed extreme that would stoop to drink it; the water had been trodden into mud by the elephants, and we were forced to suck it almost through closed teeth. It was the vilest abomination that ever went

down my throat; and yet it refreshed me. We continued our course; my young attendant trusting much to the hunter's promise, that he would watch the line of our fires and join us; but I had less faith in it, for we were now far distant from each other, and the sun was fast sinking, and the surrounding mountains assuming a darker and darker hue. My little companion lighted the bush and dry grass around, and fired repeatedly to tell where we were; but there was no answering shot.—*Rose.*

We intended that this day should be given to buffalo-shooting, and took the dogs with us, which is never done in following the elephants; and though they are to be met with in herds of hundreds, yet our search was vain. As there was nothing remarkable in the sport, and you are probably by this time weary of the butcher-work, it is merely necessary to say, that three more elephants were killed; and that my companion, who was a very fine sportsman, had the honour of bringing down a large one with a single shot, and a share in destroying the other two; while I was a mere looker-on, carrying a gun by way of form.

One thing, however, I must mention, the death of a young calf elephant. We heard the distant but incessant bay of the dogs; when D—— said, "They are probably baiting a young elephant, and they will not leave him until they have torn off his trunk, and he will then wander about till starved: if it is so, I will go and shoot him." He left us, and we shortly afterwards heard a shot.

We returned to our bivouac, and I expressed my surprise to the hunter, that there could be any necessity for marking the tusks in an uninhabited desert, where no one could interfere with his rights. "'Tis easy," he said, "to know where elephants lie, by the vultures that flock to them; and the Cape-Corps patrols watch their flight, and follow, and take

the ivory. I remember," he added, "returning after some days to a hollow, where I had left elephants, and finding a party of Kaffres busily employed in extracting the tusks: this was a situation, however, in which a reference to marks would have availed little, and in which I waved my claim, and retired." I could not but think, even after his explanation, that the marking was rather superfluous.

Among other anecdotes, D—— told us of his having seen an elephant raise his fallen companion, and still assist him even when wounded himself. I saw the beast killed, rather than desert the one that could not follow; and they fell dead together. On my observing that, judging from the paths that intersected the country in all directions, they must be very numerous, he said, "They were, and indeed are so still. I have, I dare say, myself seen as many as three thousand in a troop on the banks of the Fish River; but I should think, in the last three years, full that number have been destroyed."

He mentioned one thing that struck me as very extraordinary,—that those who traversed the country never found the body of an elephant that had died a natural death, though they frequently found those that had fallen by the hunter's shot.—*Rose.*

THE SPRING-BOCK.

The spring-bock is a gregarious animal, never met with but in large herds, some of which, according to the accounts of the peasantry, will amount to the number of ten thousand. The Dutch have given a name to this beautiful creature indicative of its gait. The strength and elasticity of the muscles are so great that, when closely pursued, he will spring at a single leap from fifteen to five-and-twenty feet. Its usual pace is that of a constant jumping or springing, with all the four legs stretched out, and off the ground at the same

time; and at every spring the hair on the rump divides or sheds, and falling back on each side, displays a surface of snowy whiteness. No dog can attempt to approach the old ones; but the young kids, which were now numerous, were frequently caught after a hard chase. Both old and young are excellent venison; and vast numbers are destroyed by the Dutch farmers, not only for the sake of the flesh, but also for the skins, of which they make sacks for holding provisions and other articles, clothing for their slaves, and, at the time of the capture by the English, for themselves also and children. The poverty and miserable condition of the colony were then so great, that all their numerous flocks and herds were insufficient to procure them decent clothing.—*Barrow's Travels in Southern Africa.*

HUNTING THE ELEPHANT.

A party of persons, to the number of fourteen, set off, and found upwards of three score elephants encamped on the banks of the Kounap river. It was late when the party arrived; therefore an attempt would have been useless and dangerous. Large fires were lighted to keep off lions as well as elephants; and the party being much fatigued, they lay down and slept.

The elephants awoke them early with breaking and pulling trees up by the roots, and rolling themselves in the water, &c. The party immediately pressed for the attack, and now commenced the sport. The elephants, upon receiving the first shot, as if by mutual consent, gave chase, though not for above six or seven hundred yards. This answered the desired effect. One of the party galloped between the elephants and the bush which they had just left, commencing at the same time a very heavy fire, which harassed them to such a degree that they fled to the plains, leaving behind them thick cover, in which they might have been perfectly secure from the

shots. On these plains great numbers of small bushes are found at no great distance from each other, so that if one party consents to drive the elephant out of one bush, the other will conceal themselves, and by this means may get some good shots.

One large bull-elephant stationed himself in the middle of one of these small bushes, and at least two hundred rounds were fired without being able to bring him down, or make him move from the place in which he had stationed himself. At every shot he received, he was observed to blow a quantity of water into the wound, and then tear up a large lump of earth to endeavour to stop the blood. The Kaffres do the same thing when they have been shot — that is, tear up a handful of grass and thrust it into the wounded place; and it is thought they have learnt this from seeing the elephants do it. At length, the great bull dropped: the party then entered the bush; and, to their great surprise, found that the reason he would not leave this spot was, that he had there found a pool of water, with which he had been washing his wounds. His height measured seventeen feet and three-quarters, and his teeth weighed one hundred and ninety pounds. Before the day's sport, was over they had killed thirteen.—*Scenes in Albany.*

No. V.

UNNATURAL CONDUCT OF THE HOTTENTOTS.

There can be little doubt, that when food is so scanty, the health and vigour of the body are impaired, — that the children actually born may be so weak and sickly, as not to survive their infancy. But, if it be maintained that a low diet, or what in England would be considered so, renders mankind less prolific, we need not look far to find a practical refutation of the doctrine: Ireland and the North of Scotland are cases in point. In the latter country, where the agricultural labourers subsist almost entirely on oat and barley-meal, the population is rapidly increasing: this is also the case with regard to the agricultural day-labourers in England, who live somewhat better.

We are therefore led to conclude, that it is not poor living, but vicious habits and unhealthy situations and employments, which generally check the natural increase of our species. It is also supposed, that in savage countries in high latitudes, where subsistence is scanty and only to be procured with extreme difficulty, the people have fewer children born to them. That such tribes *rear* fewer children, I do not doubt; but it does not therefore follow that they are less prolific. The period of maturity is certainly later in life in cold than in warm climates; but I believe that this is the only natural check which restrains the multiplication f mankind.

When from their roaming and unsettled mode of life, or from the natural sterility of the country, men find that they cannot support a numerous offspring, they are always prompted by their foresight to adopt such preventives as they think necessary to obviate the miseries consequent on a redundant population. In a savage state of society, marriage will be confined to the more wealthy; or, if the poor marry at all,

either their children will die in their infancy for want of sufficient nourishment, or the parents will have recourse to some unnatural mode of freeing themselves from the encumbrance of a number of children.

We know that some of the savage tribes of America put their aged and infirm parents to death when they become unable to accompany them in their wanderings. Is it not therefore reasonable to conclude that they adopt other barbarous modes of preventing the evils consequent on an excess of population? From what I know of the Hottentots, I cannot help inferring that other savage tribes resort to similar expedients to prevent an inconvenient increase in their numbers. The practice to which I allude is that of procuring miscarriages, which is exceedingly common both among the Hottentot and slave women. This circumstance has never been noticed by any traveller in speaking of these people, either from ignorance of the fact or from motives of delicacy; and were it not for the desire of tracing facts to their true causes, and of lending my aid in clearing up a point equally interesting and obscure, I should not perhaps have touched on the subject.

In journeying through the country, and in visiting my neighbours, I had often noticed the comparatively small number of children reared by the slave women. The Dutch females have generally very large families, often exceeding twelve; but I rarely observed slave women to have half that number. I particularly remarked that the slaves of rich and lenient masters had more children than others; and further, that the Hottentot women who had been intimate for a length of time with Europeans or Cape-Dutch were apparently more prolific than those married to men of their own nation.

This last circumstance long perplexed me, as I could perceive no sufficient cause to account for it. With the poorest and worst masters, the slaves looked well and were better fed

than very many of the lower class of country-people in the North of Scotland, who are healthy and muscular. I afterwards, however, observed that the slave women belonging to poor masters were often too hard worked while in a state of pregnancy, and that the most humane husbands among the Hottentots had generally numerous families: this led me at once to the source of the evil.

To avoid the hardship of severe work during pregnancy, for which due allowance is seldom made by unfeeling masters, the slaves have been driven to seek relief by using decoctions made from the native plants to produce miscarriage. On making inquires among the Hottentots as to this practice, they pointed out to me a plant which they used for this purpose, it was a small red berry like a currant, enveloped in a leaf like the Cape gooseberry. As the children of a slave man by a Hottentot mother are free, the slaves generally prefer connecting themselves with women of the latter class.

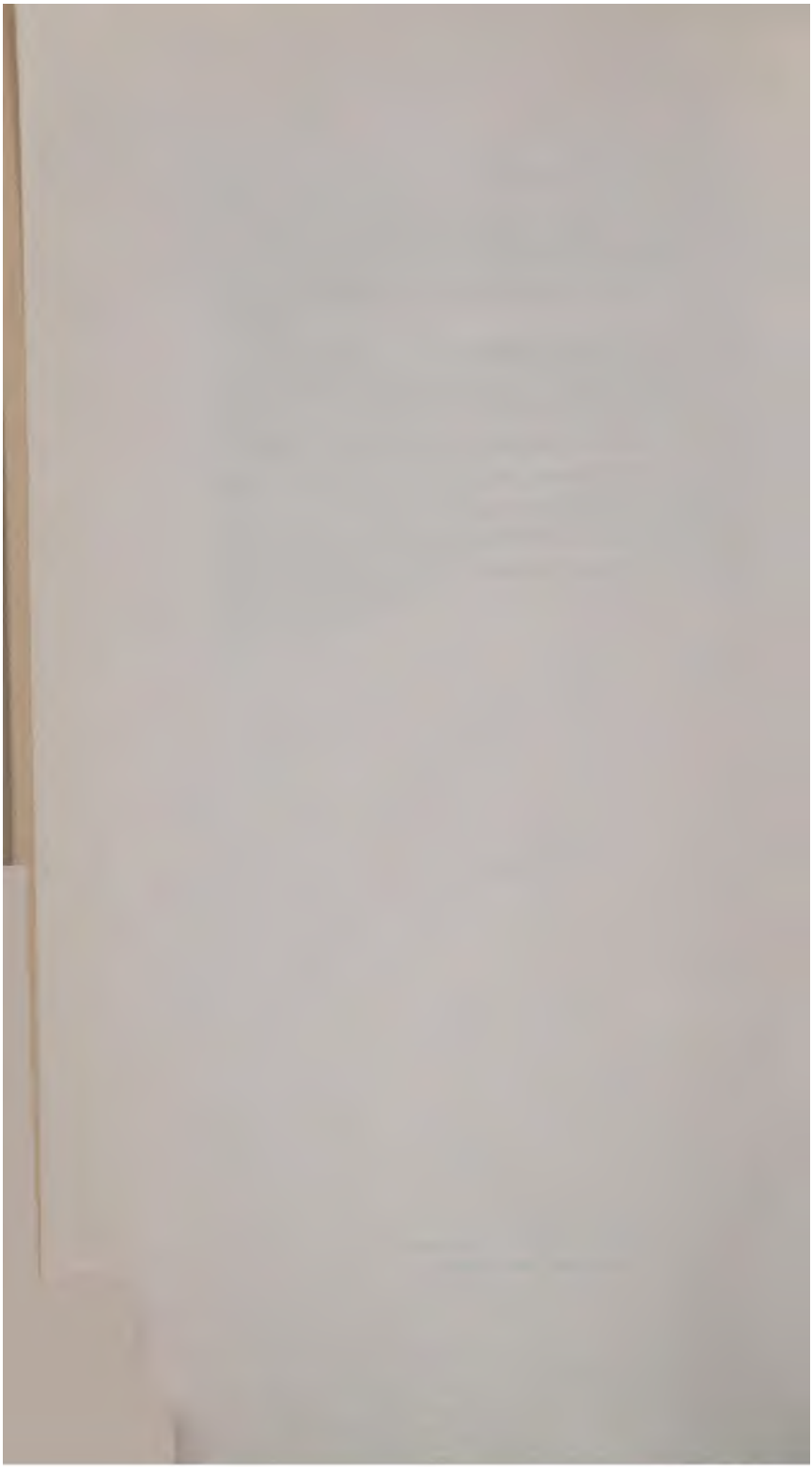
These two circumstances sufficiently account for the slave population not increasing in any proportion with the free class; and at no very distant period we may naturally expect that slavery will totally disappear in the Cape colony. I think it extremely probable that similar practices exist in other colonies as well as among the free savage tribes of America.

All the returns of the Hottentot population prove that there has been a great diminution of their numbers for many years past. Miscarriages also are the very frequent consequence of the barbarous treatment the Hottentot women receive from their husbands, who never regard the inevitable effects of the cruel beatings they give them when in this delicate situation. Many instances of this have come under my own observation during my residence in the colony.

It rarely happens that Hottentot women have children by men who are not likely to remain with them for any length

of time, as they generally have recourse to the expedient already mentioned, to save them from the trouble of rearing children whose father may not choose to contribute to their support.

Notwithstanding this unnatural practice, no women can be more tenderly attached to their offspring, and I have never known an instance of child-murder among them. When one of these women forms a permanent connexion with a white man, or with one of her own people who treats her with humanity, she generally has a numerous family; and, making allowance for the pernicious effects of frequent miscarriages, I firmly believe the Hottentots are naturally at least as prolific as the colonists.

THE END.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY SAMUEL BENTLEY,
Dorset Street, Fleet Street.